

Tomorrow

Town hall v Whitehall
A profile of David Blunkett, the blind Sheffield city councillor leading the fight against rate-capping

Inside story
Alan Franks on the proliferation in Argentina of British books on the Falklands

Love-hate thrills
Geoffrey Wansell meets Robert Ludlum, thriller writer scorned by the critics, loved by readers

Hard core
Steve Cram, the world's best middle-distance runner, pounds the pavements in Newcastle City Centre's 5,000 metres

Woolworth set to axe 34 stores

The Woolworth store chain, whose tough new management has already improved financial performance, is negotiating to sell 34 shops which are not meeting its targets. The cutback threatens more than 1,000 jobs, the shopworkers' union said.

Britain talks to Unita

The Foreign Office has its first official contact with the London representative of the Angolan guerrilla organization, Unita, in an effort to secure the release of 16 British hostages.

Junta charged

The three members of the military junta which seized power in Argentina in 1976 have been indicted for rebellion by a federal appeals court.

MPs' gun years
Concern over the proposed purchase of sub-machine guns by the Metropolitan Police was voiced by Labour and Liberal spokesmen in the Commons. Guns due soon, page 5

By-election date
The Labour Party has chosen May 10 for the by-election at Valley in South Wales. Blair had a majority of 1,000 in the general election.

Olympic deal

A British company's subsidiary has won a multi-million pound contract to sell food and drinks at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles this summer. Page 17

Francis treble

Trevor Francis, who tonight plays his forty-second match for England, says he has three objectives when he faces Northern Ireland at Wembley. Page 22

Times increase

Advertisers have sharply increased their support for *The Times* in the past two years, according to figures from Media Expenditure Analysis Limited. The column volume of advertising in *The Times* rose by 36.4 per cent between 1981 and 1983, more than any other quality daily newspaper. *The Guardian* advertising rose 15.4 per cent over the period, the *Daily Telegraph* showed almost no change and the *Financial Times* dropped by 12.6 per cent. *Torin Douglas*, page 19

Leader page 13
Letters: On Arts Council grants, from Lord Cudlipp, and others; Telecom profits, from Sir Ian Morrow; Soviet curb, from Lord Cogan and others. **Leading articles:** Welfare review; Agricultural prices; Argentine debt. **Features, pages 10-12**
How open a debate on the social services? Bernard Levin on the flop of the year: the Galleries in Mrs Thatcher's shooting gallery. **Spectrum:** insecurity in Silicone Valley. **Wednesday Page:** away from the flying pan. **Obituary, page 14**
Naomi Uemura, Mr B. S. Smith, Mr Kenneth Whitty

Home News	2-5	Parliament	4
Overseas	6-8	Property	24, 25
Arts	14, 19	Sale Room	2
Arts	15	Science	14
Business	16-19	Sport	23
Country	14	Swire	21-23
Crossword	30	TV & Radio	29
Diary	12	Theatre, etc	29
Law Report	14	Weather	30

Government plans major review of family practitioners

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is seeking long-term changes in family practitioner services - those provided by family doctors, dentists and pharmacists.

As a first step, a wide-ranging debate will be launched by the publication, probably in July, of a Green Paper listing options and proposals for change in the services, which now cost more than £3,000m a year.

The paper is likely to be accompanied by a report on medical manpower which has examined the needs of the National Health Service and the private sector for doctors, up to the year 2000.

Once the Green Paper is published, ministers plan a consultation period with organizations such as the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing, to try to produce a consensus about the future direction of primary health care.

The move means that key government decisions will have to await the green paper and the debate. These include whether to make GPs retire at 65 or 70, whether to control the numbers of overseas doctors and whether to cut the number of medical students.

The decision to review the future of primary health care has been prompted by a number of factors, including the accelerating move of long-stay elderly, mentally ill and mentally handicapped patients out of hospital and into community care, without any proper assessment of what extra demands that will place on primary health care services.

In addition, the Government is looking for tighter control on the numbers of GPs and their spending, and a Bill now going through Parliament will turn Family Practitioner Committees into health authorities in their own right with the potential to employ staff and undertake strategic planning for primary health care.

That would open up the possibility, for example of the new FPCs, rather than existing health authorities, employing the district nursing staff and health visitors who provide community care.

Other issues which will be tackled include ways of improving primary health care in inner cities, where many GPs are elderly and services are poor, and how far more resources

should be devoted to disease prevention and screening.

A key issue to be decided is how many extra GPs should be planned for, and how far patient list sizes should be allowed to fall.

At present the number of family doctors is growing at about 2 per cent a year and list sizes have fallen from 2,400 a decade ago to 2,100. The BMA is pressing for list sizes to fall to 1,700, which would require another 6,000 family doctors.

Once the future number of GPs is resolved, the government should be able to make sensible decisions about whether to cut medical student numbers and introduce firmer controls on the numbers of overseas doctors - decisions which affect the hospital side of the NHS as well as general practice. On present trends some estimates suggest there could be between 20,000 and 50,000 too many doctors by the end of the century.

Publication of the Binder-Hamlyn report, which has recommended ways of improving the forecasting and control of family doctor spending, is likely to accompany the green paper.

Fowler's new system

National insurance scrutiny

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

There is to be a fundamental re-examination to decide whether Britain still needs a separate national insurance system distinct from income tax.

This will follow from Mr Norman Fowler's reviews of different areas of social security: some social security benefits are financed through the national insurance system by contributions paid on top of the basic rate of income tax.

Discussions on fusing income tax and national insurance will be held with the Treasury by the central unit within the Department of Health and Social Security formed by the Secretary of State for Social Services to coordinate inquiries into supplementary benefit, pensions, housing benefits, provision for the disabled and benefits for the young.

National insurance contributions finance certain benefits, such as pensions and

unemployment benefit, paid regardless of needs to people satisfying basic contribution requirements.

Others, such as child benefit, paid tax-free to mothers, and supplementary benefit, which is means-tested, come from general taxation. Some benefits for the disabled are based on national insurance, while others are not.

Apart from the new earnings-related pension scheme, no national insurance benefits are closely related to the level of individual contributions.

A fusion of the two systems might be in line with the Government's wish to simplify the system and concentrate benefits on the most needy.

However, any proposal will have to wait for the results of the pensions inquiry, as the new state scheme, introduced with both main parties' support in 1978, is intended to provide an earnings-related pension in-

directly based on earnings-related national insurance.

This makes Mr Fowler's deadline look tight. After receiving the working parties' reports by the end of this year, he plans major proposals on such structural questions as the links between tax and benefits by early 1985.

Some consideration of a move towards fusion would be in line with the Chancellor's efforts to simplify income tax and "decrease the 'poverty trap'".

National insurance contributions have risen to 9 per cent of earnings for employees and 10.45 per cent for employers, they have become an increasing burden on the low-paid. This is because they are paid on all wages for anyone with total earnings above £34 a week, while income tax is levied only above certain thresholds.

National insurance also has a ceiling of £250 a week.

MP's case on Oman to be released

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

A legally privileged and fully argued case against the Prime Minister, suggesting that she did have a personal interest to declare in the Oman university contract, is to be published by a select committee of the House of Commons.

The outstanding complaint against Mrs Thatcher, lodged with the Select Committee on Members' Interests by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, was rejected last night by the Conservative-dominated committee.

However, after a "gruelling" and "bruising" two hour session, the committee agreed that it would publish a minority report submitted by the MP.

Mr Campbell-Savours and committee colleagues were told that if they said anything about the committee's proceedings or its conclusion, they would be committing a disloyalty to the House of Commons.

He said last night: "I have been warned, but I can say that I produced a minority report."

Mr Campbell-Savours refused to make any further comment, but other MPs revealed that the minority report contained his arguments for complaining that Mrs Thatcher should have declared an interest in the Oman contract.

It was also stated last night that Mr Campbell-Savours had injected into his report the details of another complaint, from Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, which had already been rejected by the committee.

Mr Sedgmore's contentious evidence was refused publication by the committee, but he issued it last week with a defiant statement that the Prime Minister could not and would not sue. Any House of Commons report from a select committee is covered by parliamentary privilege, and would be protected from an action in defamation.

Certainly, some of the statements contained in the minority report could be regarded as defamatory by some of the parties named in it.

Engineers' union in no-strike deals

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Britain's second biggest union, is signing "no-strike" deals to maintain and increase its membership of one million.

These sensitive agreements, which include binding arbitration, are particularly frequent in the North-East of England. Mr George Arnold, a member of the union's executive, said yesterday:

"The union has previously remained silent about the arrangements, known disparagingly by the left as 'sweetheart agreements' bitterly opposed by traditional trade unionists. The union's leaders have allowed the 'non-aggression' pacts to multiply because membership in the industrial heartlands, where orthodox agreements exist, has plummeted."

Right-wingers dominating the executive have decided the best way to revive the union's fortunes is to cultivate its moderate image and gain a foothold in the new "sunrise" industries. They argue that this strategy does not sacrifice the union right to withdraw labour because it is impossible to stop

workers walking out if they want to.

Mr Arnold said there were "quite a number" of such deals. He could not say how many because local negotiators were allowed a degree of autonomy.

He made his comments yesterday in an interview with *The Times* over the kind of industrial relations procedures to be offered to Nissan to ensure that its planned pilot plant at Washington New Town employing up to 500 will be expanded to create more than 2,700 jobs.

Mr Arnold said he would meet management within a week and a procedure, including binding arbitration, "could be one of the things we could usefully discuss".

Local officials of his union and the Transport and General Workers' Union have virtually agreed a no-strike deal already. The no-strike move will have repercussions elsewhere and will accelerate a process started by the right-wing Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union at the Plymouth plant of the Japanese electronics company, Toshiba.



The Duke and Duchess of Kent arriving in Northern Ireland yesterday on their first visit in four years.

Railways avoid all-out clash

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

An unholy alliance has been forged between British Rail and the two main rail unions to prevent an all-out confrontation over the unions' decision to support the striking miners by refusing to transport coal.

About six railway workers were sent home yesterday without pay by local managers for refusing to take out coal trains. This was half the number suspended on Monday. Passengers services in the Wirral, Merseyside, were halted after a walkout by about 250 staff over the suspension of a driver, but that was an isolated incident.

Both sides are reluctant to escalate the action. Most coal trains were running in areas still producing coal. Militant members of the National Union of Railwaymen were threatening at one stage to disrupt passenger services on the main London to Glasgow line in the Warrington area over the suspension of two guards, but the dispute was defused by NUR national officers.

The suspensions were at depots at Saltley, Besoot, Toton and Nottingham in the Midlands and at Brighenhead. In other areas, mainly the Nottinghamshire coalfield, train drivers refused to cross the official National Union of Mineworkers picket lines, but were not sent home.

BR has been telling regional managers to send home only those staff who refuse to take out trains which might carry coal. If a driver and guard refuse to cross a picket line at a colliery they return the locomotive to the depot.

The NUM was not maintaining round-the-clock picketing of railway lines and coal was apparently being moved at night. The amount being moved has been cut to between 40 and 50 per cent of normal. BR gets about half of its freight income from carrying coal and the long-term loss of money could be serious.

Suggestions that the cautious approach is the result of government pressure are discounted by BR executives.

Notts pits may yield to pickets

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders in Nottinghamshire voted yesterday to escalate the coal strike by calling on 34,000 pitmen in their traditionally moderate coalfield not to cross picket lines set up by flying pickets from Yorkshire.

This unexpected hard-line approach was agreed after a heated three-hour meeting of the 15-man area executive of the National Union of Mineworkers, but it is still conditional on approval by a coalfield delegate conference tomorrow.

Nottinghamshire is the only coalfield to have worked normally during the "rolling

Power pickets
Scargill tells Russia 2

strike", now in its fourth week. But Mr Henry Richardson, area NUM secretary, said last night: "We have now changed our policy. We have got to look at our consciences because other trade unionists are putting their jobs on the line to help us."

The National Coal Board is guardedly confident that the move not to cross picket lines will be rejected by the 250-strong area conference. A three to one ballot vote against sympathy strike action has kept the 25 Nottinghamshire pits producing coal with the help of a massive police presence.

However, the development alarmed National Coal Board managers who were counting on a steady resumption of normal working in the moderate coalfields to put pressure on the NUM national executive to call a national ballot at its April 12 meeting.

The board reported last night that 43 pits were working normally - an increase of three on the previous day - and two more were producing some coal. A further eight had some men crossing picket lines but unable to resume output. But 123 remained strikebound.

On Monday 35,440 men went into work, a 12 per cent increase on the 31,625 a week before. About 140,000 are on strike.

Continued on back page, col 1

Russians pour in supplies for Iraqi war effort

From Christopher Walker, Aqaba

Russian military supplies for Iraq are pouring through the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba and the suspicion is growing in Western diplomatic circles in the Middle East that some of the ships may also be carrying chemicals used by Iraq to manufacture the toxic gases whose use in the Gulf War has been condemned by the United Nations.

The queue of vessels now waiting outside the port, including a number flying the hammer and sickle, stretches back for miles into the heat haze, while more than 200 huge lorries depart daily on the 72-hour desert route to Baghdad. Since the closure of the Iraqi port of Basra, Aqaba has become the main entry point for all Iraq's supplies, military and civilian.

Some of the ships are flying a red flag, which means the cargo is either explosives or another dangerous material.

There is no evidence yet that as a counter to the recent US prohibition on the supply of certain chemicals used in the manufacture of toxic gases, the Baghdad government will necessarily turn to the Soviet Union to keep up stocks. But that is the fear in many Western embassies in the Middle East, particularly after this week's threat by Iraq to use chemical weapons in the event of a new Iranian mass offensive.

Official statistics released to *The Times* showed that last year 2,454 ships unloaded at Aqaba, compared with 1,744 in 1981. More than 70 per cent of the cargo was bound for Iraq.

King Hussein of Jordan, who is deeply concerned about the consequences for his and other moderate Arab regimes in the event of an Iranian victory, publicly acknowledged the importance of Aqaba when he told British correspondents following the Queen visit that it provided a "lifeline" to his close ally, President Saddam Hussein.

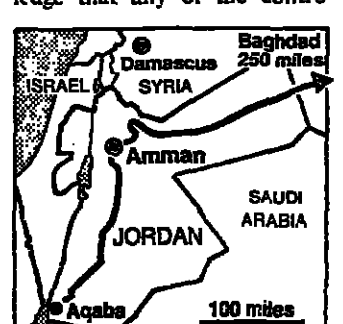
Many of the vehicles belonging to the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company, which has a total fleet of 1,500 and a number of Iraqi em-

ployees living in Aqaba, are carrying military equipment including thousands of vehicles supplied to Iraq by Russia and east European countries.

Mr Tewfik Kassar, head of the biggest Jordanian shipping agents, told me that there was no ban on any type of chemical product being imported through Aqaba. He attacked the US for "hypocrisy" over its ban on chemicals.

"Whatever does not suit the Americans, they make a big fuss about, along the lines of the famous saying that you cannot tell a judge he is a bastard. They have conveniently forgotten about the atomic bomb, about what happened in Vietnam, and about the cluster bombs, which they happily sell to Israel and which have maimed hundreds of women and children in Lebanon."

Mr Kassar, who was sitting by a large Soviet shipping calendar, refused to acknowledge that any of the contro-



versal chemical cargoes do pass through the Jordanian port.

During a boat trip, I counted three ships unloading in the port which were flying the red danger flag.

Shortly after, during a tour of the restricted dock area, permitted by security guards, I found large wooden crates from the Soviet Union, clearly marked in Russian and English, for delivery to an Iraqi concern described as the State Oil Refinery and Gas Plant, the address of which was given as Post Box 3069, Baghdad.

On the same day, a British

Special powers invoked as Punjab crisis grows

Delhi (Reuters) - The entire state of Punjab was declared a "dangerously disturbed area" last night after 10 rioters and two policemen were killed in violence sweeping the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

One of the dead policemen was reported to have been lynched by rioters and the other died of sword wounds.

An Indian Home Ministry spokesman said the declaration under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act gave security forces unlimited powers in an attempt to defuse spiralling communal violence between Hindus and Sikhs.

Amritsar and two other areas of the state had already been declared disturbed areas last month.

The situation had been brought under control by dusk and rioters and looters dispersed when police opened fire.

The wave of violence was set off by the killing yesterday morning of Mr V. N. Bhatnagar, a leading academic and Upper House member of the ruling Congress (I) Party who was shot at his home on the campus of Punjab University in the state capital Chandigarh by two Sikhs posing as students.

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Scotland wants four Sutherland masters

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The National Gallery of Scotland is negotiating to buy four superb Old Master paintings from the Duke of Sutherland, it was announced yesterday. They include a Titian and a Lorenzo Lotto from the great collection formed by Philippe, Duc d'Orleans, the Regent of France during Louis XV's minority.

The announcement, foreshadowed in *The Times* on Saturday, came from Christie's, the auctioneers, who are advising the trustees of the two family trusts through which the paintings are owned.

Christie's gave no indication of the prices under discussion. However, a knowledgeable art dealer told *The Times* yesterday that the open market value should be about £4m, while "the Getty factor" might push this up to £5m. He was



Detail from "Virgin and Child with Saints".

referring to the pressure exerted on prices by the enormous purchasing power of the J Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California.

The Duke's trustees said the sales were intended to underwrite essential expenditure on the family estates in Scotland and the endowment of a charitable settlement that has

been set up to finance opening the gardens to the public.

The paintings are among the group of 30 superb pictures which the Duke of Sutherland has left on loan to the National Gallery of Scotland since 1946. Their value has been conservatively estimated at about £60m.

Mr Colin Thompson, director of the gallery, emphasized yesterday that there was at present no question of the other paintings being for sale. He said he was pleased with the progress of negotiations so far and added: "We believe there is no cause for concern about the future of the Sutherland collection in Edinburgh."

Christie's say the negotiations are taking place within the framework of the "usual private treaty procedures". This means that the large tax charge on the proceeds of an open market sale are being

taken into account: tax is waived on a private treaty sale to a national institution. If an open market valuation of about £5m were agreed, the gallery would probably have to pay, only about £2.5m.

The most valuable painting is probably the Lorenzo Lotto "Virgin and Child with Saints", a major Renaissance painting with echoes of Bellini who was an important early influence on Lotto's work (say £1.2m). The Titian depicts "The deposition of Christ" and was painted as an altarpiece for San Francesco della Vigna in Venice (say £1m).

Then there are two really outstanding Dutch seventeenth-century pictures, Jan Steen's "A school for boys and girls" and Gerard Dou's "Interior with a young violinist" (say £1m and £500,000 respectively).

RUC face political storm after officer cleared of murdering terrorist

A member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary's special support unit was acquitted by a judge in Belfast yesterday of murdering an unarmed terrorist.

Constable John Robinson, aged 29, was found not guilty at the city's Crown Court of murdering Seamus Grew in Armagh city in December, 1982.

Grew, aged 32, and another member of the Irish National Liberation Army, Roderick Carroll, died when Mr Robinson, a former soldier, and another police officer, opened fire on their car. During his trial Mr Robinson had said that he believed his life was in danger.

In a reserved judgment, Mr Justice MacDermott said that the Crown had not satisfied him beyond reasonable doubt that the officer was guilty of murder.

There were gasps from the public gallery where members of Grew's family were sitting. The RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, and senior officers of the force head-

quarters are understood to be bracing themselves for a political storm after disclosures during the seven-day trial of police procedure, none of which was disputed.

Mr Robinson told the judge that after the shooting three senior police officers were involved in concocting a story in an attempt to stage a cover-up and to give the impression that Grew was shot after he drove through a police road block.

The officer said that it had been a planned operation aimed at capturing Dominic McGlinchey, said to be the INLA's leader, who was a fugitive wanted on both sides of the Irish border, and that on the night of the shooting, RUC Special Branch detectives had been operating in the Irish Republic.

At the opening of the trial, the Crown said that Grew and Carroll had been under surveillance by security forces because it was believed they were planning an assassination.

The judge said that he was not concerned with allegations of a police cover-up, only whether Mr Robinson was guilty.

But he said that if Mr Robinson had made a statement to the police which contained secrets or operational matters, arrangements could have been made to have them edited out. A person who might have to face a murder charge should not be told a story.

After the verdict Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that the case was a "deadly body-blow to the hope that justice will ever be fairly administered in Northern Ireland".

He wanted to know if the RUC Chief Constable intended to take any action against the officers named in court as part of cover-up allegations. The claim that Special Branch men operated across the border in the Irish Republic at the time of the shooting should also be answered, he said.

Power pickets face long wait

The handful of striking mineworkers picketing the 2,000 megawatt Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station near Nottingham yesterday had only to cast an eye to the huge coal stocks looming behind them to estimate that more than one million tons, to realize the size of their task.

In the Midlands, where power stations produce about a third of the country's electricity, one leading figure with an intimate knowledge of the industry said: "Ever since

From Craig Seton, Nottingham

Arthur Scargill was appointed president of the NUM (National Union of Mineworkers), the CEB (Central Electricity Generating Board) has been stockpiling coal and making contingency plans."

Nationally, both main power trade unions have told their men at power stations to carry on working as normal and two leading officials of those unions in the Midlands area agree that a station such as Ratcliffe has supplies to last between 12 and 17 weeks even if it worked at

full load and without fresh supplies.

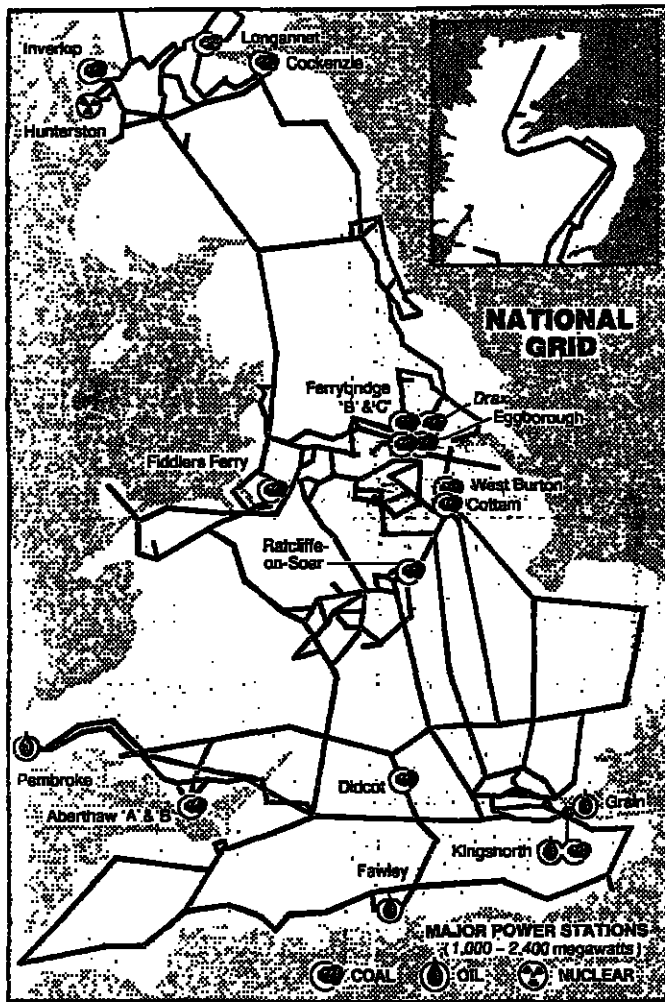
One said that the estimates of coal stocks at power stations were about right and the miners had a long wait before they could affect electricity generation.

Mr Jack Tetley, regional organizer in Nottingham for the General Municipal Boilermakers' and Allied Trade Union, who represents men working at 10 Midlands power stations, said yesterday: "Our members have been instructed to work normally. There is some sympathy for the miners but our men have got a job to do and shutting down power stations is not something we would envisage doing ourselves, let alone for somebody else."

Mr Len Sturgess, area official for the Midlands of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trades Union, which represents power station craftsmen, said: "Ninety days' supplies of coal are common to most power stations. I don't think these stations have supplies for six months."

● The National Coal Board has postponed its summer price discount on coal, which was due to come into effect on May 1, and warned customers that if the miners' dispute continues to the end of April there will be no discount this year.

Mr Malcolm Edwards, the board's marketing director, said there were insufficient stocks to begin the discount as planned.



Power lines: The national grid showing the main power stations in England, Wales, and Scotland

Five-year struggle over site ends

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

After five years of controversy, the attempt by Greycourt Commercial Estates to develop the Coin Street site close to County Hall on the South Bank of the Thames has ended. The Greater London Council yesterday announced it had purchased the land from Greycourt for £2.7m.

Mr George Nicholson, chairman of the GLC planning committee, said the work would now begin on the £30m scheme designed by the Association of Waterloo Groups (AWG). Both the AWG scheme and the Greycourt project, designed by Mr Richard Rogers, have outline planning permission from the Environment Secretary.

The AWG scheme, which has the approval of both Lambeth and Southwark councils in whose boroughs the site lies, includes 400 homes, 26,000 square feet of studio and workshop accommodation, a park and a viewing platform on top of the Oxo tower landmark.

GLC politicians do not accept that the council will be abolished, as the Government proposes and Mr Nicholson was confident that the AWG plan would go ahead. Lambeth Council has already made provision for the housing in its allocations for the next years.

The purchase marks the end of Greycourt's interest after three public inquiries and two High Court cases. In a statement last night,



"It will have no effect, you know."

Dairy processors fear double curb

By Robin Young

Amid continuing doubt as to how the EEC's scheme to cut milk production is to be implemented in Britain, some of the dwindling band of farmers who produce, process and sell their milk independently of the Milk Marketing Boards fear that they will be doubly penalized.

Mr Michael More-Molyneux, managing partner of Loseley Park in Surrey, said yesterday: "It seems that if we are to continue expanding, our dairy products business, as we have set ourselves up to do, we will not be allowed to do it from our own farm production but will have to buy more milk from the Milk Marketing Boards."

"We are going to be in a quite hard position for us in the milk production is only part of the business. We have invested in land, buildings and equipment to expand not only that, but also our processing business."

Mr John Taylor, of Cricket St Thomas, Somerset, said: "Britain has 39,000 dairy farmers and already there are 10,000 pleading that they are special cases."

"As a milk producer by-passing the board, I am already penalized by a board levy to ensure that I do not get an unfair advantage over Unigate and Express Dairies."

"But it could well be that the retailing side of our business could be our salvation. We would have been worried about our financial position already without it."

Mr Patrick Rance, the authority on British cheeses, said: "We do not want to see the small men, who are producing all that is best, driven out of business. It is time for a national review. The people who should be driven out are the low - standard producers."
Leading article, page 13

Tory MPs press for privatization

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Strong Conservative pressure is building up for legislation to force local authorities to shed services that could be more efficiently run by private companies.

The party's election manifesto said that many Tory authorities had saved ratepayers' money by putting services such as refuse collection out to tender. It added: "We shall encourage every possible saving by this policy."

But the Prime Minister said in the Commons last December: "Progress remains disappointingly slow. We are considering what measures could be taken to speed things up."

Last week she told MPs that she was still dissatisfied, but ministers were reluctant to legislate because it would require a highly technical Bill.

But in the Commons yesterday 167 Tory backbenchers, including 18 parliamentary private secretaries, voted for a private member's Bill expressing support for local privatization legislation.

The Bill was lost by three votes because the Tories were only on a two-line whip. One party source said that some ministers had to be restrained from going into the lobbies to support the backbench proposal, which had been sponsored by Mr Christopher Chops, MP for Southampton Itchen and former leader of Wandsworth Borough Council in London.

But an indication of the pressure for action was given to The Times last night by Mr

Malcolm Thornton, parliamentary private secretary to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Thornton, MP for Crosby, said that councils would still be refusing to sell council houses if the Government had not forced them into it.

He said: There is evidence that direction from the centre is needed to get the dynamic effect downwards.

"I would far rather see the momentum starting at the local level: it is in their interest, after all. One is looking for them to pick up the ball and run. If they are not prepared to do that, then the Government is going to have to take the decision for them."

● The Association of London Authorities decided yesterday to seek survival through a change to its rules (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

It was formed last year by Labour-led councils in the capital, which had left the Conservative-dominated London Boroughs Association. A High Court judge ruled 10 days ago that a subscription should not have been paid to the association by the Greater London Council because the association was "party-political in nature".

After a meeting of the association's policy committee last night it was announced that the association would meet next week to examine ways of working within the judgment.

Endowment grants vital, National Trust says

By Hugh Clayton

The National Trust yesterday defended the high cost of endowments needed for it to accept historic houses.

In the great hall of Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire, opened to the public in its restored state yesterday, Mr Gervase Jackson-Stops, the trust's architectural adviser, said "seventeenth century tapestries now on the walls were used as bedding for dogs by a tenant in 1880."

Lieutenant-Colonel J R G Stanton, chairman of the trust's East Midlands region, said some of the walls had been approaching dilapidation a year later.

Canons Ashby is the first restoration mansion to be secured with a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The fund's £1.1m grant included £1m for an endowment.

"The provision of the large endowments is a lot," Colonel Stanton said, "but the trust has to look 250 years ahead and maybe more."

Hunt to stay in the Falklands

Sir Rex Hunt is to remain as Civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands for an extra 15 months, not being replaced until September next year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced yesterday.

The extension will be welcomed by the islanders, who have been lobbying for it. It will also be welcomed by Sir Rex himself, who had made it known that he would like to remain in the Falklands until he retires at the age of 60 in June, 1986.

Charity projects may be closed

A charity, which runs training schemes for 1,000 ex-offenders and young people with few or no qualifications, claimed yesterday that seven of its eleven projects would close because Manpower Services Commission funds to support it are "overcommitted".

The Apex Charitable Trust, which launched the schemes a year ago under the MSC's Voluntary Projects Programme, said it had been told that grants totalling £350,000 towards the plans would not be renewed.

The MSC said decisions had yet to be taken.

Special powers in Liverpool

Emergency powers were granted yesterday to the leader of Liverpool City Council, Mr John Hamilton, his deputy, Mr Derek Hatton, the chairman of the performance review committee, Mr Tony Byrne, and his deputy, Mr Frank Mills.

The council has been unable to authorize new spending since last Sunday, the start of the financial year, because its Labour group's attempt to pass an illegally high budget ended in deadlock.

Strike at NUJ head office

Staff employed by the National Union of Journalists head office are due to go on strike today because of a dispute over pay and the introduction of new technology.

They are members of the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex). Senior head office officials, who are members of the NUJ agreed not to cross their picket line.

Rugby chiefs set to defy sanctions

The Welsh Rugby Union seemed poised yesterday to defy sanctions by inviting three South Africans to play against Wales in Saturday's match marking the completion of the £10m national stadium in Cardiff.

Anti-apartheid demonstrators from all over Britain intend to hold a rally during the match, to be attended by Dr Danie Craven, the South African Rugby Board's president.

Rugby clubs in mid-Glamorgan, however are furious about a county council ultimatum that they must write urging the union to accept the Gleneagles agreement or lose the use of pitches and premises.

School plans challenged

Strathclyde Regional Council plans to bus certain senior secondary school pupils to their lessons at a "consortium" of schools are being challenged by parents organizations and by the Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest teachers' union in Scotland.

They regard the proposals as an attack on the comprehensive system which will produce "elite" schools. A rally in Motherwell last night attacked the plans, which Strathclyde believes will meet the dramatic drop expected in school rolls.

Overseas selling prices:
Australia \$2.20, Belgium 8.50, Canada 1.50, Denmark 1.50, France 1.50, Germany 1.50, Greece 1.50, Hong Kong 1.50, India 1.50, Italy 1.50, Japan 1.50, Korea 1.50, Malaysia 1.50, Mexico 1.50, New Zealand 1.50, Norway 1.50, Portugal 1.50, Singapore 1.50, South Africa 1.50, Sweden 1.50, Switzerland 1.50, Taiwan 1.50, Thailand 1.50, United Kingdom 1.50, USA 1.50, West Germany 1.50.

To all Conundrum treasure hunters... stop digging!

The mystery of the 12 gold eggs has brought pleasure to many thousands of families throughout the British Isles. Unfortunately a minority of treasure hunters have ignored the repeated advice that the caskets are not buried on property that is clearly private, on sites of archaeological interest, on National Trust land, or anywhere where digging is likely to cause offence or inconvenience to anyone. So we have recovered the remaining three caskets:

'Island Mystery', 'Conundrum' and 'A Giant's Place' but the hunt goes on!

HOW TO CONTINUE YOUR SEARCH

First crack any or all of the 3 remaining mysteries.

Then send us a detailed written description of where you think the casket was originally buried - preferably accompanied by a sketch map with an Ordnance Survey reference. The first correct entry received for each casket will be awarded the egg; existing written solutions will be considered.

NOTE: If you think that an explanation of how the John Tregear Mystery was solved would help you, send a SAE to 'Solution', Conundrum, PO Box 100, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Terms and Conditions (supplemental)

- 1) Entrants should send their written solutions in ball-point on a sheet of white paper no less than 6" x 9" by 31 December 1984. If a sketch map is attached this should be on a separate similarly sized sheet.
- 2) There is no limit to the number of separate entries.
- 3) Your name, address and telephone number should be clearly printed on the written solution and sketch map.
- 4) Don Shaw, the author of the book 'Conundrum', will select the winning solutions. No correspondence will be entered into regarding claims; Don Shaw's decisions will be final and binding.

Responsibility will not be accepted for entries lost, delayed, mislaid or damaged in the post or offered for delivery insufficiently stamped. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with the rules of entry requirements will be disqualified. In the event of any inconsistencies these conditions shall apply.

Remember, obey the country code, act responsibly and try not to cause annoyance. For up-to-date news on which eggs remain to be claimed call 01-631 0031 from 6th April. Send in your solutions to: Conundrum, The Cadbury's Creme Egg Mystery, PO Box 100, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Lunch staff fight 17% pay cut

By David Cross

Hertfordshire's 2,400 or so dinner ladies, angered by the prospect of losing their jobs, are planning their hopes on the courts to overrule a 17 per cent pay cut threatened by their employers.

Their union, the National Union of Public Employees, is to seek a High Court ruling within the next week or so to force Hertfordshire County Council to abandon a decision to impose new contracts incorporating the wage cut.

The dinner ladies are particularly incensed by the short notice they have been given to accept the new terms of employment under the implicit threat of losing their jobs. At Legatts Secondary School in north Watford, for example, the 11 supervisors, cooks, and assistants in the canteen received new draft contracts only during the past week.

They are originally told that they would have to sign the papers by the end of this week but that deadline is expected to



Dinner ladies at Legatts School, Hertfordshire, ready to serve some of the pupils (Photograph: Chris Harris).

be extended for a few days while the High Court examines their cases.

It is all quite ridiculous, the canteen supervisor, Mrs Kathleen Harvey, said. "We have had this threat hanging over our heads for the last month and it makes all of us feel so resentful. Why are we bothering, we ask ourselves, when we

have worked so hard and conscientiously all these years?"

Mrs Harvey, who has worked as a dinner lady for 23 years, 17 of them at Legatts, calculates that she stands to lose £680 a year, or nearly 15 per cent of her gross pay. For Mrs Ian Harze, one of her assistants, whose gross salary

last year was £2,883 for a 30-hour week, the loss will be 20 per cent, she has calculated.

To add insult to injury, the canteen staff will have to pay 20p a day for their lunch which they have hitherto been receiving free of charge. Mrs Harze's husband is a messenger and her contribution to the family budget is vital.

Sale room

Somme commander's 25 medals fetch £19,000

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

The historic medals awarded to General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, one of the British Army's key commanders during the First World War, were sold at Christie's yesterday for £19,000 (estimate £12,000 to £15,000).

"Rawly" commanded the Fourth Army during the battle of the Somme and his advice to revise tactics was one of the most important factors in eventual victory. The 25 medals included the Order of the Bath,

the Order of St Michael and St George, and the Royal Victorian Order.

The medals had been sold by his family at Sotheby's in 1969 for £1,900. Yesterday the family tried desperately to buy them back but were left the underbidders. The medals went to Spink & Son, the London dealers.

The nine medals awarded to Field Marshal Sir Neville Bowles Chamberlain (1820-1902), including gold GCB and Empress of India medals, sold for £18,000 (estimate £8,000 to

£9,000). They were sent for sale by Chamberlain's family.

The medal sale totalled £226,215 with only 1 per cent unsold.

Christie's was also surprised by bidders' enthusiasm in its sale of Old Master drawings.

A spray of pink roses with a brimstone butterfly, painted on vellum by Pierre Joseph Redouté, the most sought-after French natural history illustrator, secured the day's top price at £27,000 to the Fine Art

Society. Christie's had estimated only £4,000 to £6,000.

The red chalk Roman views by Hubert Robert, still in their original eighteenth-century mounts, also soared beyond estimate. A view of St Peter's through the portico secured £25,920 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000), and a view of the Villa Barberini £10,800.

Sotheby's, however, demonstrated that the market for Gothic wood carvings, so popular in Germany in the 1970s, has not recovered.

Woolworth plans to sell 34 stores in tough weeding-out

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Woolworth store chain, whose tough new management has already improved financial performance, is negotiating to sell 34 stores which are not meeting its targets. Among them are about a dozen larger stores.

If all the sales go through, over 1,000 jobs will be threatened according to the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw). Some stores may be sold for redevelopment for other purposes, but stores sold as going concerns might retain some jobs under new owners.

Sales of all the stores would reduce the number of Woolworth outlets to fewer than 900. It was unclear last night whether the projected sales might include one of the dozen Woolco supermarkets located mostly on the edge of towns.

Areas affected include Birmingham, Leicester, Sheffield and Cardiff, according to Usdaw. Some of the larger stores involved are said to be in Chester, Colchester, Blackpool, Exeter, Lancaster and Slough.

Woolworth said last night that it had told Usdaw and staff at affected stores that 34 were being surveyed by potential buyers. The company added: "No agreement has been reached with any potential purchasers and no statement will be made until such time."

It could be several weeks before any contracts are signed. The stores under negotiation clearly do not meet the new targets set by Woolworth Holdings. Last month, announcing sharply increased group profits for the first full year of trading since Woolworth was acquired by a consortium late in 1982, Mr John Beckett, chairman of Woolworth Holdings, said that some stores would not meet Woolworth's new retailing criteria and others were unlikely ever to meet the rigorous financial standards which had now been set.

Woolworth, still one of the top five British retailers, had about 1,000 outlets at one time. The old Woolworth management had started to sell off stores during 1982 and in that year store sales threw up a

surplus of £26.7m. Last year another 17 were sold, producing a property surplus of £26m.

How far the new Woolworth policies might mean the sale of further stores the company is not saying. Mr Beckett has made it clear that he sees the complete revitalizing of Woolworth as a seven-year programme. There is a new concentration on strong departments like confectionery, do-it-yourself and records.

The one-time sixpenny store, which, later, boasted it sold nothing for more than a shilling, is now intent on persuading customers to spend more during each visit to a Woolworth store. One new sector it is moving into is wine sales.

While Woolworth stores are being slimmed down, the company's increasingly profitable B&Q do-it-yourself chain is being expanded. There are 115 B&Q outlets, and 20 more due.

The remaining unanswered question at Woolworth is whether, once the poorly-performing outlets are weeded out, it will then open new Woolworth stores which conform to the new trading philosophy.

Organ donor wife's hope for others

By Thomson Prentice

The widow of a man whose body provided donor organs for five transplant patients said yesterday that she hoped her decision to permit the surgery would encourage other people to sign and carry donor cards.

Mr Tony Robinson, a steel fabricator, aged 40, died suddenly last weekend after a brain haemorrhage. Surgeons removed his heart, kidneys, pancreas, and corneas after Mrs Barbara Robinson, aged 30, gave permission. "It was not a difficult decision because we had discussed it all before and he had a donor card," she said.

In a remarkable and possibly unique series of operations within hours of her decision, the organs were transplanted into patients who were on waiting lists for surgery.

A woman patient at Harefield Hospital, west London, received Mr Robinson's heart; two patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, received his kidneys; and one was also given the pancreas; and a man and a woman at Bromsgrove General Hospital, near Mrs Robinson's home in Hereford and Worcester, were each given a cornea graft.

"My husband had told me that if anything happened to him, his body must not be wasted," Mrs Robinson said. She said he had been kept breathing artificially at Bromsgrove General Hospital after suffering the haemorrhage last Friday, but his brain had stopped functioning. She agreed to have the life support system switched off and the transplant arrangements were made.

Science Correspondent

Surgeons at the hospital assured Mrs Robinson's body and found that he fulfilled the criteria of age, fitness, and absence of serious disease.

Dr Barry Fisher, the consultant in charge of the intensive care unit at the hospital, said yesterday: "It would have been unthinkable not to have offered the organs for transplantation, given the permission of the next of kin and the cooperation of the medical staff who had been caring for the patient."

Dr Fisher, who did not identify Mrs Robinson by name, said: "She was keen to cooperate with us to the whole extent. It was very much her view that if other people could benefit it would help her to adjust to her husband's death and that his death would not be a complete waste."

None of the hospitals or their medical staff had been prepared to identify Mrs Robinson yesterday in keeping with their strict rules about the anonymity of organ donors. However, Mrs Robinson allowed herself to be interviewed.

The recipient of her husband's heart is a Sicilian housewife who had been receiving treatment at Harefield Hospital. She was said to be making good progress yesterday. The other patients involved in transplants from Mr Robinson's donor organs were also said to be progressing satisfactorily.

In Glasgow, a campaign was launched by the Lord Provost, Dr Michael Kelly, to set up a computerized register of potential kidney donors.

Radio aid for school computers

By Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

A radio programme to help teachers to assess the merits of different types of educational computer software is being devised by the BBC for transmission late in the spring.

More than 200,000 BBC Microcomputers have been sold in Britain and many are being used at school or in the home as an educational tool. There is, however, the BBC says, a dearth of good computer programs and selectivity is crucial.

"The trouble is you cannot get software on approval because it is too easily copied. You pay for it you have got it and you are stuck with it," a spokesman said.

The project has been devised by BBC School Radio which celebrates its sixtieth anniversary today. The first two broadcasts in the *Software Review* series will be transmitted at night, starting at 12.30am on May 26 and June 9.

Sheep farmers' auction protest
Welsh hill farmers protested at a London auction yesterday over the sale of Black Mountain, a 25,000-acre estate in the Brecon Beacons once owned by Lord Cawdor where they and their ancestors have grazed sheep for centuries (Michael Horsnell writes).

Nearly 400 farmers who enjoy common grazing rights formed five syndicates in an attempt to buy the land. However, shortly before it came up for auction, the owner, who remains anonymous, told the auctioneers Harman Healey and Co that he had sold it privately.

Police recover stolen terrier
Barney, a pedigree Yorkshire Terrier, was yesterday reunited with its owner, Mrs Jean Claydon, a horse breeder of Kelvedon, Essex, after it had been taken during the weekend and after a ransom of £2,000 had been demanded. The dog was found after police went to an address in Kimpton, Hertfordshire.

The police said a man and a woman were being interviewed.

Shot PC home
Police Constable Timothy Phillips, who was shot last month after he stopped the occupants of a car, left hospital in Chichester yesterday, with the bullet still lodged in his thigh. Doctors have said it must stay there.

Flight record
The world distance record for flying a microlight aircraft was broken yesterday when Mr Peter Davies, aged 27, from Blackpool, flew 340 miles from an airfield in Suffolk to Land's End. He almost doubled the previous record of 180 miles.



Winston Smith on film

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen." Orwell's *Winston Smith* sat down to write his diary. "April 4th, 1984. Last night to the flicks..."

Tonight, April 4, 1984, a thousand people will go to the flicks at the National Film Theatre in London, to see the 1954 television version and the 1956 film of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* on the very day that most dismal of futures was set to

unfold in George Orwell's novel, published in 1949.

At the same time, the 1984 remake of the film will be filming in Chelsea, starring John Hurt (above) as Winston Smith.

The new film, for which Orwell's widow Sonia gave permission before she died in 1980, is due for a world premiere in London on September 13 (Photograph: John Voos).

Why fewer women get firsts - or thirds

By Lucy Hodges

Education Correspondent

Women get fewer first-class university degrees than men but they also produce fewer thirds. The probable reason is that there are fewer geniuses and fewer dunces among the female sex, according to some new research.

An analysis of honours degrees at British universities in 1978 and 1979 shows that women scored better in firsts in the small groups of education, agriculture, and professional subjects. They also did well in engineering.

However, in arts subjects - languages, literature, and the humanities - in which they are disproportionately heavily represented, they gained less than half the percentage of firsts achieved by the men. Mr Ernest Rudd, of Essex University's sociology department says in an article in *Studies in Higher Education*.

In science and social studies they performed a little better but still gained less than three quarters of the percentage of firsts achieved by men.

At the same time Mr Rudd found women did as well as men at the demanding level required for an upper second first degree.

He notes that this difference in performance between the sexes has remained unchanged during a time when attitudes to women's careers and sex equality have changed substantially.

Mr Rudd says there are four possible explanations - that academics and examiners are prejudiced, that women are under pressure not to compete, that it is the product of female medical or psychological conditions, or that it reflects a difference between the sexes in their distribution of abilities.

He decides the fourth explanation seems most likely.

Studies in Higher Education, vol 9, no 1, 1984 (Carfax Publishing Company, PO Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire).

House buying

Conveyance changes 'need no safeguard'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is against extra safeguards to protect the consumer against conflicts of interest when solicitors employed by banks and building societies undertake conveyancing.

In a consultative paper issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department yesterday, it says that it does not believe additional measures are needed to safeguard the public, although conflicts of interest will arise.

Adequate protection, it says, afforded by the fair trading laws, the Solicitors' Practice Rules, and the Law Society's compulsory insurance scheme against negligence.

But it is considering a code of practice for bodies doing conveyancing. "Severe" conflicts of interest might arise, it says, if other bodies wanted to provide conveyancing. It questions whether solicitors working for builders or estate agents, for instance, should be prevented from acting for buyers.

There could be conflicts of interest if solicitors with a bank or building society were to act for vendor and buyers. But the Solicitors' Practice Rules, which prohibit such action except in rare circumstances, should be adequate protection.

The rules will need amending, however, so that solicitors are freed from restrictions on touting for work on advertising and on fee-sharing with unqualified people.

There would also be conflicts of interest where the solicitor was dealing with the mortgage, the consultative paper says.

The solicitor might not be able to give independent advice where the client wanted advice on the best kind of mortgage; where the lending institution needed a lease amending before granting a mortgage; and where it wanted to withhold part of a loan pending work on the property.

From the solicitor's point of view, a conflict between the interests of his employer and of the borrower "would be a conflict between his duty to his employer and his duty to the customer", the paper says.

But that would be similar to a solicitor faced with two clients with conflicting interests.

In such cases, the customer must be protected while minimizing the extra expense and delay which would result from instructing a new solicitor part of the way through the process.

Mr John Morris, Opposition legal affairs spokesman, said that the Government seemed to have ignored entirely the Master of the Rolls' recent comments urging the Law Society to look to the propriety of solicitors acting both for lenders and borrowers.

Consultative document from the Lord Chancellor's Department, Neville House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LS.

Homes package plan

By Our Property Correspondent

Black Horse Agencies, the largest estate agency grouping in Britain, is considering the provision of a complete package for house buyers, including conveyancing if the Government allows it in forthcoming legislation.

Black Horse, owned by Lloyds Bank, has in two years expanded its network to 156 agencies and is looking to

expand its operation further, "where it is commercially sensible to do so". Mr Roy Mercer, general manager, said yesterday.

If the scheme went ahead it would not be through the employment of "hordes of in-house solicitors". Firms of solicitors in the areas of the agencies would probably be used, he said.



Stolen porcelain: a 1750 Chelsea parakeet (left), a nodding Chinese figure, dated 1730, and a hawk owl, dated 1749-52.

£1m porcelain theft

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard detectives are investigating the theft of more than 100 antique porcelain items, worth a total of £1m, from a specialist antique shop in New Bond Street, central London.

The police believe that the thieves not only selected what they stole, possibly to order, but may also have brought their own packing cases to move the items which dated from the eighteenth century.

The robbery at the Antique Porcelain Co took place on Saturday evening, but details were not released until yesterday after an inventory of 102 porcelain birds and animals had

been completed. The most valuable item stolen is a pair of Meissen jays worth £140,000.

Bow and Chelsea pieces were also taken. The firm said yesterday that some of the missing items were very rare. The robbers broke in through a first floor window after bypassing the alarm system. The police believe that they passed the haul down to a vehicle by rope.

The alarm is thought to have been triggered as they left. When security men arrived 10 minutes later they found that the main doors had been tied from inside to give the thieves time to escape.

Instead, he recommended a system under which licences would be granted automatically, with no one empowered to object, so long as the operator made clear how long he intended to run the service and gave advance warning if he intended to renew the licence. Those who stopped operating without permission could have their licence withdrawn.

Future services could be run by small existing firms, by newcomers, by privatized public companies, or by joint freight and passenger enterprises.

Some of the threatened uneconomic routes would in fact be taken over by other firms, Professor Hibbs said.

Bus report backs unlimited licences

By Patricia Clough

Amunition for the Government's battle to deregulate bus services is provided today by a "think-tank" report which says that the scheme would bring "innovation and progress" and benefit travellers in country areas.

The risk of rural and suburban districts losing uneconomic but socially necessary bus services as a result is "less severe than might at first sight be supposed", according to a memorandum by the Adam Smith Institute.

The memorandum, drawn up by Professor John Hibbs, director of transport studies at Birmingham Polytechnic, was requested from the institute by

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport.

It is published just as the state-owned National Bus Company, in the opposite camp, is gathering its own evidence on the basis of a study by Professor Kenneth Culliam, of Leeds University. That study, early morning, late evening, and Sunday services, as well as some peak-hour runs, would have to be stopped.

The development of new ideas in the bus industry after the partial deregulation in 1980 had been inhibited by the persistence of the route licensing system, under which objections could be made in the public interests, Professor Hibbs said.



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American Airlines

normally, and by the same person. Food was provided regularly."

Falklands new constitution expected for next year's poll

By Rodney Cowtan

A new constitution for the Falkland Islands is being drawn up by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Elements of the constitution are contained at present in various documents such as Orders in Council, Letters Patent, and Royal Instructions, which have been extensively amended over the years.

The new constitution is expected to be essentially a tidying-up, a pulling together of elements from all the documents. It will, however, include constitutional changes based on the recommendations of a Falkland Islands select committee, published last July.

Those recommendations were discussed by Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, when she visited the Falklands in January. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is understood to have largely accepted the recommendations, though there are several points which it questions.

The Falklands Government is headed by the Civil Commissioner, now Sir Rex Hunt, who is the Crown's personal representative. There is also a Military Commissioner, Major-General Keith Spacie, who is responsible for defence and internal security.

Defence Correspondent

The Civil Commissioner is advised by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The select committee said its recommendations were intended to enable the Executive Council's elected members to exercise more influence on the islands' government and to make those elected members responsible to the Legislative Council.

The committee recommended that the number of elected members of the Legislative Council should be increased from six to eight, and that two ex-officio members should cease to have a vote on the council.

The Legislative Council should elect three of its members to the Executive Council, an increase of one. The committee also recommended that the Executive Council should be ended, and, as on the Legislative Council, the ex-officio members should have no vote.

The committee made no reference to the roles of the Civil Commissioner who sits as president of the Legislative Council and chairman of the Executive Council, or the Military Commissioner, who is a non-voting member of both councils.

Thatcher's Gaideris, page 12

Guns for summit guards due soon

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard's firearms specialists expected to take delivery soon of the first of the sub-machineguns being issued to guards during the June economic summit.

Up to a dozen Heckley and Koch MP5K weapons are on order from West Germany. They cost £400 to £500 apiece and are considered the most expensive sophisticated sub-machineguns available.

The officers being trained to use them are expected to come from the Special Branch, which normally protects visiting politicians.

Other candidates for the weapons may include members of Scotland Yard's D.I.I. firearms branch and other uniformed officers trained in specialist rifles and marksmanship.

The Metropolitan Police training camp in Essex is likely to be used for training.

The courses are expected to include marksmanship with the guns, which have a firing rate of 900 rounds a minute, instructions on stripping them down and tactics lessons.

Since Mr Steven Waldorf's shooting in a police operation last year all officers using weapons have been given cards listing the circumstances in which they can open fire. D.I.I. officers are likely to consider whether rules should be added to apply to the sub-machineguns.



Patients in the picture

Staff nurse Mrs Theresa Carne watching over patients at the 30-bed Royal Infirmary, Plymouth, through a television camera (Nicholas Timmins writes). The £10,500 system was bought for night security, to remove the need for a porter on night security. For a marginal extra cost, cameras were also installed in the wards. Mr Jeremy Taylor, an administrator at the hospital, says it saves no nursing staff but allows them "to spend more time at the bedside

with patients who need them rather than walking corridors. We have had no reactions from patients that 'someone is spying on me', he said. "Quite the reverse. Patients like to know they are being watched over." With the saving in porters the system will pay for itself in a couple of years, he said, and Plymouth is now considering installing it in other hospitals.

(Photograph: Ted Ditchburn)

Data Bill may flood courts with exam appeals, MP says

By Richard Evans

The High Court could be flooded with appeals from students against their examination results if proposals in the Data Protection Bill were enacted, a Conservative MP said yesterday.

Unless it is changed, the Bill will give students at schools, colleges, and universities the right to see personal information held on computers relating to the way teachers and lecturers have marked their examination papers and the results awarded.

Mr Edward Taylor, MP for Southend, East, told the committee examining the Bill that with students' education and prospects at stake, such provisions would lead to disruption and disputes "which will take up a great deal of valuable time on the part of busy people and deflect them from more important work".

Mr Taylor proposed that personal information relating to marks, scores, or other assessment material held by educational establishments and examining boards should be kept confidential.

He said that if students were able to see details, assessments, and comments of lecturers and examination markers "you are going to start a genuine flood of all kinds of appeals and High Court actions".

There was often a difference between initial raw results and the final mark awarded to a student as lecturers used their

discretion and collective wisdom "sensibly and fairly". The Bill's proposals for disclosure would threaten such a system.

Mr Taylor, who claimed that his proposal was, with the exception of the National Union of Students, widely supported, said that the Bill's provisions would disrupt the examination process and "no-body is going to be better off".

However, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley North and an Opposition spokesman on the committee, said that Mr Taylor's proposal was "totally unacceptable and unnecessary".

He said students should have the right to know their initial marks as well as final marks and the method employed to reach a final assessment.

"They have the right to know assessment was arrived at. At the moment that process is shrouded in mystery and it does not need to be. It is shrouded in mystery because it protects the incompetent examiner."

Mr Kilroy-Silk, a former university lecturer, said that competent and conscientious examiners had nothing to fear from the Bill's provisions.

"Openness is important. It would benefit the student enormously to have all the information and it would benefit the staff because it would not any longer protect the incompetent or lazy."

10 arrests as peace camp awaits bailiffs

By Pat Healy

Ten women nuclear arms protesters were arrested yesterday during a blockade of one of the gates of Greenham Common air base. They were charged with obstruction and released on bail.

Their action emphasized the determination of Greenham women to continue their vigil against cruise missiles despite the threat of eviction. At the main gate evictions to make way for road-widening have been postponed because of the large numbers of women at the original peace camp.



Miss Arrowsmith, among the new arrivals.

Yesterday more women arrived to support the 30 permanently living there. They included Miss Pat Arrowsmith, the veteran campaigner.

Miss Arrowsmith pointed to a placard proclaiming "Greenham women are everywhere" and said: "We have come to the conclusion that for the moment the place for Greenham women is at Greenham Common."

The large numbers of women arriving at Greenham in the past few days have encouraged them to reoccupy land owned by Newbury District Council from which they were evicted. They have erected tents and shelters and planted a flower and vegetable garden.

The garden is tended by Ms Clare Nord, aged 52, a Texan grandmother who said she was fully employed living at Greenham and helping to feed the women.

There was no attempt to evict them yesterday, although their departure was anticipated by a light aircraft displaying a banner reading: "Ratepayers say: Good riddance, girls."

The women displayed a placard reading: "Yes we will be removed - repeatedly."

Wildlife fund to work with farmers

The new chairman of the World Wildlife Fund's British organization promised yesterday more cooperation between conservationists and farmers, a stronger line in influencing the law affecting the countryside.

Mr Timothy Walker, a City of London businessman, farmer, and breeder of endangered wild animals, said at a press conference: "I do not think the right way for conservationists to approach the farming world is with a stick."

Mr Walker, aged 42, takes over the World Wildlife Fund-UK from Sir Arthur Norman, who is to set up a new institute, the United Kingdom Centre for Economic and Environmental Development.

Bystanders hurt as horses shy during filming

Five people were taken to hospital yesterday after four coach horses used in filming a television programme featuring Sir Harry Secombe shied and bolted into crowds lining the pavements in the centre of Wimborne in Dorset.

One boy Nathan Fairfax, aged two, was trapped in his pushchair and dragged along the road by the horses. His mother, Mrs Jackie Fairfax, of Wimborne, dived under the animals' hooves to snatch him to safety.

Five people were taken to Poole General Hospital. The horses' owner, Mr Robert Goodey, who, driving the coach, said he believed they were frightened by a glowing shop sign.

Versatile kestrels make a killing in the city

By Kenneth Gosling

The kestrel is back in town, establishing itself in the artificial cliffs formed by old buildings and returning to newer office blocks in London, including Britannic House, the British Petroleum headquarters.

Britain's most common bird of prey is never short of suitable nesting places in the capital nor is there any lack of food. It is there any sparrows in town and in the country it feeds on such small mammals as voles, shrews and mice.

The future of the kestrel, with its loud "kee-kee" call, seems assured. According to recent figures published by the British Trust for Ornithology, there are 70,000 pairs in Britain, close to

saturation level. Next comes the sparrowhawk, with 20,000 pairs, and buzzards, 12,000 pairs.

Mr Ian Dawson, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says the first recorded London sighting for half a century or more was in 1931. Five or six pairs appeared after the war, but there was a dip in the early 1960s. The revival began in 1972 when 10 pairs were sighted.

Egg-laying begins next month. Some two or three young usually hatch out from clutches of four or five eggs. "It all depends on the abundance of prey available", Mr Dawson says.

BIRDS OF PREY RESIDENT IN BRITAIN

Species	Approximate number of pairs (and trend)	Limiting factors	Approximate % of potential range occupied
Kestrel	70,000 (stable)	At capacity level	100
Sparrowhawk	20,000 (spreading)	Pesticides	80
Buzzard	12,000 (spreading)	Pesticides	80
Peregrine	800 (increasing)	Pesticides	80
Hen Harrier	600 (fluctuating)	Pesticides	80
Golden Eagle	400-500 (increasing)	Pesticides?	80
Merk	300-400 (declining)	Pesticides?	5
Goshawk*	70 (increasing)	Pesticides	20
Red Kite	40 (increasing)	Pesticides	20
Osprey*	30 (increasing)	Pesticides	20
Mourning Dove*	25 (increasing)	Pesticides	<8
White-tailed Eagle*	2+ (increasing)	Pesticides	

*Endangered for a time. Source: British Trust for Ornithology News, March 1984

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Marchais will not pull out of coalition despite yawning gulf

From Diana Geddes, Paris

In his strongest attack on the Government to date, M. Georges Marchais, the French Communist leader, made clear during an hour-and-a-half television interview last night that there was little, if anything, in the Government's current policies with which the party was any longer in agreement. But he said there was no question of the Communists leaving the Government.

While the Socialist reforms introduced by the Government in its first 18 months in office were even more important than those introduced under the Popular Front or at the Liberation after the war, the Government's overall record must now be deemed negative, M. Marchais said.

Its present policies were in direct opposition to the undertakings agreed between the Socialists and the Communists in their June 1981 pact. That

mistaken in the solutions we proposed. Basically, there is nothing else that we can do other than that which has been done for years and years," M. Marchais said, clearly hinting that M. Mitterrand's Policies were now no different from those of his predecessor, M. Giscard d'Estaing.

The Communist Party did not accept that there was no alternative policy (as M. Mitterrand has said). It intended to stick to its promises, and to remain in the Government to fight for those policies. It would not "give a present to the right" by leaving the Government, although that was clearly the easier course to take and one that was being advocated by a number of Communists. But they were in a minority, and they were wrong.

It is not only the Government's economic and industrial policies on which there is fundamental disagreement, as M. Marchais made clear. The Communists are also against the enlargement of the EEC, against the deployment of Nato missiles in Europe, for the integration of private schools into single non-secular state system (which the Government has abandoned); and against the cuts in unemployment benefit which have just been introduced.

So M. Marchais has thrown down the gauntlet, but President Mitterrand is expected to take it up and throw it right back at his press conference today. There appears to be no question of the Government's changing its policies. It intends to ride out the storm that it has long seen coming. M. Mitterrand is one of those politicians who seem to thrive under a challenge.

In this sparring game, it is the Communists who have their backs against the wall. If they leave the Government the Socialists, who have an absolute majority in Parliament, will be able to continue to govern without them, while the Communists will be left out in the cold, saddled with the opprobrium of having once again broken the Union of the Left and stripped of their power to place their own men in key positions in their four Government ministries.

Their electoral support, which fell to 16 per cent at the time of the presidential elections in 1981, after running at an average of more than 20 per cent over the previous decade, has now dropped even further to around 12 per cent (according to the latest opinion polls). Being inside the Government does not seem to have helped, but would it be any easier outside? That is the question they are now pondering.

The latest plans for restructuring the steel industry constituted a "tragic error". The Government's industrial policy must be reversed, M. Marchais said if he were a steel worker, he would think hard how he would vote in the next elections.

President Mitterrand must take account of the totally new situation that had been created since the announcement of the steel plan last week, or else he must admit to the public that the Government had been mistaken in 1981.

"He must say...we were mistaken in our analysis of the (economic) crisis. We were

Three killed by Durban car bomb

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Three people were killed and 16 injured yesterday in a car bomb explosion in Durban - South Africa's major port. And last night the Government claimed that the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) was responsible.

If this is the case, the blast is a vicious reminder to South Africans that, despite the peace pact signed last month with neighbouring Mozambique, black nationalist guerrilla forces are still active.

Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, said in Cape Town: "Although nobody has claimed responsibility I have no doubt that the ANC is responsible for this atrocity."

The bomb was hidden in a Japanese car parked close to the entrance to Durban docks. It went off at 7.40 am at the peak of the morning rush hour. A packed school bus had passed the spot shortly before.

A number of cars were shattered by shrapnel, and office buildings on the broad thoroughfare had windows shattered. Only the fact that the car was parked on the other side of the road, next to parkland, prevented heavier casualties.

Two of the people killed were blacks and there was speculation last night that they were driving towards the docks with the bomb inside the car when it exploded. The third person killed was a white woman on her way to work.

The ANC has only used a car bomb once before in South Africa. This was last year, when it set off a bomb outside the Air Force headquarters in Pretoria which killed 19 people and injured more than 200.

Usually ANC attacks are aimed at strategic targets which do not involve heavy casualties, such as petrol dumps, electrical sub stations and railway signals.

However, a show of force by the ANC has been expected since the Government signed its peace pact. This has denied the ANC its most convenient base.

Wall Street Journal washes linen in public

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

In a remarkably frank exposé, *The Wall Street Journal*, America's largest newspaper and one of the world's most respected, is publishing details of an insider trading scandal involving one of its own reporters.

The journalist, and his male lover, are among a number of people, including stockbrokers, involved in a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation into trading rings which profited from insider information on Wall Street.

The newspaper says that the reporter had money worries. He felt he was underpaid, and his boyfriend had high medical bills and was a self-described free-spender.

In an editorial yesterday the *Journal* said: "As part of our business we often find it necessary to explore and expose facts that embarrass others in general, and American business in particular. So we are doubly embarrassed to be caught with our own scandal. We are washing our dirty linen in public."

The Wall Street Journal.

circulation: two million, is owned by Dow Jones and Company and has a high reputation for integrity, which makes the scandal especially galling.

The *Journalist* at the centre of the scandal is Mr Foster Ninams, aged 35, who worked on the highly-sensitive and widely-read "Heard on the Street" column. Mr Ninams was dismissed last week after admitting that he had used advance information about the content of the column.

The newspaper said: "The

unravelling of the clues so far suggests that a number of trading rings may have acquired advance knowledge of "Heard on the Street" columns. Some of these rings may have reaped substantial illicit profits."

Investigators want to know if Mr Ninams published articles designed to help people he knew well, something Mr Ninams denies.

The newspaper says that Mr David Carpenter, aged 34, who is Mr Ninams' room-mate and lover, owned stock in a company about which Mr

Ninams wrote favourable articles.

The scandal has left the newspaper with what its managing editor calls "a collective sense of shock and betrayal".

In its editorial yesterday the *Journal* said there were few more serious breaches of trust than leaking market-sensitive information. It added that credibility could not be long sustained if readers came to believe that articles were tainted. The SEC investigation, it said, was "helpful to us in clearing our own skirts".

Indian goes into orbit in Soviet spacecraft

From Richard Owen, Moscow

In a sheet of orange flame the gleaming white spacecraft carrying India's first cosmonaut lifted into the sky above Soviet Central Asia one minute late at 5.09 pm yesterday. The launch was watched by senior Soviet and Indian officials, including Mr Rameswami Venkataraman, the Indian Defence Minister.

Unusually, the launch was broadcast live on Soviet television, which also showed the Indian crew member, Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, aged 35, inside the Soyuz T11 capsule alongside two Soviet cosmonauts. Soviet space shots are not normally revealed until after the launch, in case something goes wrong.

Squadron Leader Sharma, who has been in training for two years at Russia's "Star City", is the cosmonaut-researcher on the Soyuz T11 mission commanded by Colonel Yuri Malyshev, aged 43, and crewed by Flight-Engineer Gennady Strekalov, aged 44.

The spacecraft will dock today at 3.35 pm BST with the orbiting space station Salyut 7, joining three Soviet cosmonauts who have been on board the station since February. The Soviet-Indian crew will spend a week on Salyut 7, conducting experiments before returning to earth on April 11.



All systems go: Malyshev Sharma (centre) and Strekalov just before the first Soviet-Indian space mission.

Last November, Soviet space officials admitted that a two-man crew on board the space station had been at risk when their craft suffered a fuel leak. However, the two cosmonauts returned to Earth safely. Two months previously a Soyuz mission was abandoned when the launch rocket exploded.

However, officials at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan anticipated no problems yesterday, and the latest flight has been presented in the Soviet media as a triumph in Soviet technology and "Indo-Soviet cooperation".

Tass said yesterday that the flight was continuing normally. Mr Venkataraman said as he

watched the dart-shaped spacecraft disappear that he would never forget the launch and that he hoped cooperation during the mission would be as successful.

Squadron Leader Sharma said before the launch that he would be teaching his fellow cosmonauts yoga exercises to alleviate problems arising from weightlessness. He is also taking a supply of mangoes to enliven the Salyut 7 diet, giving rise to jokes about cosmic curry.

Most of Russia's joint ventures in space involve East European cosmonauts under the "Interkosmos" programme, although a French cosmonaut joined a Soyuz team in 1982. The Soviet-Indian mission

will photograph the Earth's surface, concentrating on Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent to collect agricultural, geological and meteorological data for use in food and resources programmes.

Squadron Leader Sharma and his understudy, Wing Commander Ravish Malhotra, delighted Soviet viewers by speaking good Russian learnt during the two years of preparation. They praised Lenin and Gagarin, and said Russia and India were two great countries united in their desire for peace.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, is to speak to Squadron Leader Sharma in a direct link-up from Delhi on Saturday.

Professor U. R. Rao, the director of Indian space research, said Russia and India had been cooperating in space for more than 30 years, including the Soviet launching of Indian satellites.

In a statement read on board the spacecraft, Squadron Leader Sharma said his flight was a "special honour" for India and a sign of the "eternal friendship" between Moscow and Delhi.

Tass quoted his father, Mr Vivendranath Sharma, as saying the family was "joyful and proud", and said there was a festive atmosphere at St George's School in Hyderabad, where his son had studied.

Argentines burn Big Ben

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Youths marching to commemorate the second anniversary of Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands set fire to a replica of Big Ben and pulled down a statue of George Canning, the nineteenth century British foreign secretary and prime minister.

Sixteen marchers were arrested on Monday night after a demonstration by the Malvinas War Veterans' Centre turned into a mêlée involving various political groups, firemen and the police. The incident spoilt

the Government's plan to mark the anniversary with a quiet memorial service to servicemen killed in the conflict.

About 100 of the nearly 10,000 youths who took part in the march began the violence when they reached a square, the name of which was changed from Plaza Britannia to Air Force Plaza after the conflict.

The marchers broke down the doors of the "Englishmen's clock-tower", a half-size copy of Big Ben donated by the British community in Argentina in 1910, and set fire to the lift inside. When firemen tried to

put out the blaze, they were stoned by demonstrators. Damage to the base of the tower was said to be serious.

The clock itself, which showed the correct time yesterday morning, was apparently unaffected.

Later, an ultra-nationalist group stormed a local radio station and interrupted the broadcast of a programme marking the anniversary of the invasion, yelling and shouting at the broadcaster while he was on the air.

Leading article, page 13

Fifth military chief goes in Honduras

Tegucigalpa (AP) - General Marco Antonio Rosales Abella, the army inspector general in Honduras, has resigned. He is the fifth top military officer to step down in a shake-up that included removal of the armed forces commander.

A brief announcement by the President's press office said Rosales Abella had quit but no details were given.

Senior Edgardo Paz Barmica, the Foreign Minister, said later that the changes had established a separation between political matters and military affairs.

General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, who as armed forces commander-in-chief had been considered the most powerful man in Honduras, was dismissed at the weekend and flew to Costa Rica. The removal of two generals and a colonel from their top posts followed.

Government sources, who spoke on condition that they were not identified, said the shake-up was ordered by the armed forces supreme council. The three other officers removed were General Jose Bueso Rosa, the Chief of Staff, Colonel Daniel Bali Castillo, Commander of state Security Forces, and General Ruben Montoya, the Naval Commander.

Labour has doubts about EMS

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

The Labour Party remains sceptical about the value of the European Monetary system, Dr Conaugh McDonald, MP for Thurrock told a surprised but sympathetic conference of European socialists in Luxembourg yesterday.

Dr McDonald, one of the party's leading speakers on economic affairs, said that joining the EMS would not be a priority of the next Labour Government. Although monetary stability was an important factor in economic recovery, it was not enough on its own.

In the Labour Party's view the introduction of the EMS had been inflationary. Conference was no good if it did transmit deflation across frontiers.

France, she said, had suffered the consequences of trying to abide within the strait jacket of the EMS. Exchange rate stability must not be an end in itself.

Labour could not expect to come to power until 1988. By then Britain's revenue from oil would have peaked. This coupled to the fact of labour policies would be bringing down the value of the pound. After a period of adjustment and if the pound was at a low enough rate it might be possible to think of joining the EMS, but this would only be useful if it came in along with job creation policies. "The key for us is expansion", she said.

The Labour Party, however, had no commitment to monetary union and was, in fact, wholly opposed to such an idea.

M. Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister, told the conference that France had decided to remain inside the EMS for the sake of Europe. Progress was always combined with risks, he said. In the short term it might have been better to have left the system.

The conference, held in preparation for the European elections, heard many speakers praising the system and calling for wider use of the European Currency Unit (ECU) as an international reserve currency to challenge the power of the dollar.

Aftermath of Jerusalem bombing

Palestinians claim to hold Israeli hostage

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

In a dingy office in the suburbs of Damascus, the pro-Moscow Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine yesterday made the astonishing claim that they had for a year been secretly holding an Israeli soldier prisoner, and would release him only if the Israelis freed the three Palestinians responsible for Monday's attack in Jerusalem that left almost 50 civilians wounded.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli Army refused yesterday to confirm the man's status. Reliable sources claimed, however, that he had deserted from the Army about a year ago.

A senior official of the DFLP, which is still part of Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization, handed to *The Times* a photocopy of the Israeli soldier's military papers, alleging that the man, whom he identified as Staff-Sergeant Samir Assad, was in good health, and being held in a "very safe place" either in Syria or Lebanon.

He said that the DFLP would be informing the Red Cross of the prisoner's existence but would not free him unless the Israelis handed over the Palestinians involved in Monday's shooting, together with a number of other prisoners in Israeli jails, including two whom he said had been in prison for at least 16 years.

He named them as Ody Adiv, an Israeli Jew whom he said was a member of the DFLP, and a man whom he identified as Omar Kassem.

Mr Jamil Hilal, the head of "international relations" in the DFLP's central committee, refused me permission to see the Israeli. When I asked him to prove that Staff Sergeant Assad, whom he said was an Israeli Druze soldier, was still alive, he replied: "It would be madness for us to demand the release of prisoners if he was dead."

Instead, he gave me a photocopy of an Israeli passport which carried the photograph of a young man with a beard and moustache, together with a military number, 3353588.

Mr Hilal said that Sergeant Assad had been captured in a

"special operation" last summer between Tyre and Sidon in southern Lebanon and that the soldier's Gall assault rifle numbered 1303382 was also in the DFLP's possession.

In the early summer of 1983, an Israeli soldier was initially reported to have been kidnapped during an ambush in which three of his colleagues were killed just north of Tyre although Israeli officers at the time firmly denied to *The Times* that any of their men had been abducted. According to Mr Hilal, Sergeant Assad joined the Israeli Army on November 15, 1979, and was born in the north Galilee village of Kfar Beit Jin.

Despite the large number of civilians gunned down in Monday's attack, the DFLP in Damascus showed scarcely any remorse at the casualties. It was given photographs of three men whom the DFLP said carried out the attack and who were identified by *noms de guerre* "Fuad", "Abu Rabieh" and "Carlos", the latter having obviously taken his pseudonym from an even more infamous gunman. All are in their early twenties.

When I questioned Mr Hilal about the Jerusalem attack, he insisted that the three men had been instructed to capture the Minister of Tourism at the end of what he called "King George Street" and that the Romanian Embassy in Damascus had been asked to inform their diplomats in Israel that the DFLP wanted the release of prisoners in Israeli jails. Another DFLP official brought into the office in which we were sitting a torn and battered Israeli tourist map of Jerusalem, labelled "Asir's pictorial map", which is still on sale in the city, and pointed to the picture of the ministry building about 700 yards from a street labelled "George V".

"This was the target", Hilal said. "Our men were to occupy this building, take hostages and then demand the release of the prisoners. We are sorry that civilians were wounded. The aim of the operation was to free our comrades. We are fighting an occupation army, not civilians. All we are seeking is the release of Palestinians in Israeli jails."

Lahad gets Haddad's job

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Major-General Antoine Lahad, who retired from the Lebanese Army last year, is to be inducted today as commander of the Israeli-backed south Lebanese forces, security officials reported. He will take over the militias founded and commanded by the late Major Saad Haddad.

General Lahad, aged 54, will be installed by south Lebanese village leaders, who named him in consultation with the Israelis.

The Israelis put off picking a successor after Haddad died in January because they hoped it would be done by the Lebanese Government in the context of security arrangements agreed on in last year's withdrawal treaty.

The pact, which had envisaged the integration of Haddad's forces as a territorial brigade in the Lebanese regular army, was abrogated by the Beirut authorities.

US soldier wounded in Athens shooting

Athens - A US Army sergeant, shot in his car by masked motorcycle gunmen, managed to save his life by driving into the American air base at Athens airport two miles away, despite bullet wounds in his wrist and lung (Mario Modiano writes).

Master-sergeant Robert Ladd, who is with the US military mission in Greece, was in uniform as he drove yesterday afternoon along the main road south-east of Athens to take the mail to the air base.

After an operation to remove the bullet from his lung, he was said to be in a stable condition and out of danger.

Peking crime cut by half

Peking (Reuters) - The average number of criminal cases in Peking dropped by 58.7 per cent between August and December last year, compared with the previous seven months, according to the Mayor, Mr Chen Xitong.

He said better education in democracy and the legal system had helped to cut crime, a contrast in emphasis to statements by the Public Security Minister, Mr Liu Fuzhi, who said in January that severe punishment was the way to maintain order.

General strike halts Belgium

Brussels - The Belgian Socialist trade unions ordered a general strike yesterday in protest at the Government's latest austerity budget. (Ian Murray writes).

Rail services, mail and schools, particularly in French-speaking Wallonia, were severely hit or shut down.

Israel strike

Jerusalem (AFP) - Shipping was at a standstill in all Israeli ports as pilots and traffic controllers went on strike without warning, in support of claims for improved retirement pensions.

Border toll

Bangkok (AFP) - Incidents with Vietnamese troops on the Thai border with Cambodia since March 25 have left at least 52 Vietnamese and five Thai dead, according to the Thai authorities.

Turks jailed

Cologne (Reuters) - Ten Turks were given prison terms of four to four-and-a-half years for occupying the Turkish consulate in Cologne and holding 60 people hostage for 15 hours in November, 1982.

Neo-Nazi trial

Vienna (AP) - Four men received prison terms between 20 months and five years and five others were put on probation at the end of Austria's biggest neo-Nazi trial.

Ono must pay

New York (AP) - A jury here decided that Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, must pay Mr Jack Douglas a record producer and engineer, \$3m (£2.1m) for work he did on the Lennons' record *Double Fantasy*.

Poll postponed

Monrovia (AP) - Liberia's military regime announced that elections have been postponed for nine months until autumn, 1985. The ruling Peoples Redemption Council said more time was needed for a education campaign on the new constitution.

Church bomb

Paris (AP) - A 25-year-old man was seriously injured when a bomb exploded at the entry to a building housing the Church of Scientology here.

School spirit

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (Reuters) - Education authorities in Malaysia's Sabah state have called in a witchdoctor to exorcise spirits keeping about 500 secondary school pupils from their classes.

Sausage killing

Wellington (AFP) - Malcolm Francis, aged 35, is standing trial in Napier, New Zealand, on a charge of beating his wife to death with a frozen sausage. He has denied murder.

Computer ring

Boston (AFP) - Leslie Klein, aged 36, a Canadian, has been arrested in connexion with an international high-technology smuggling ring that exported sophisticated computer systems to East Germany and the Soviet Union, the US Attorney's office here announced.

English ban

Jakarta (AP) - The Governor of central Java has banned the use of English names for shops, such as supermarket, beauty salon and shopping centre, in order to "restore national pride to Indonesia".

Soldier killed in Athens noting

A US Army soldier in his car by bicycle gunmen, gave his life in the American air airport two miles bullet wounds in the lung (Mario S).

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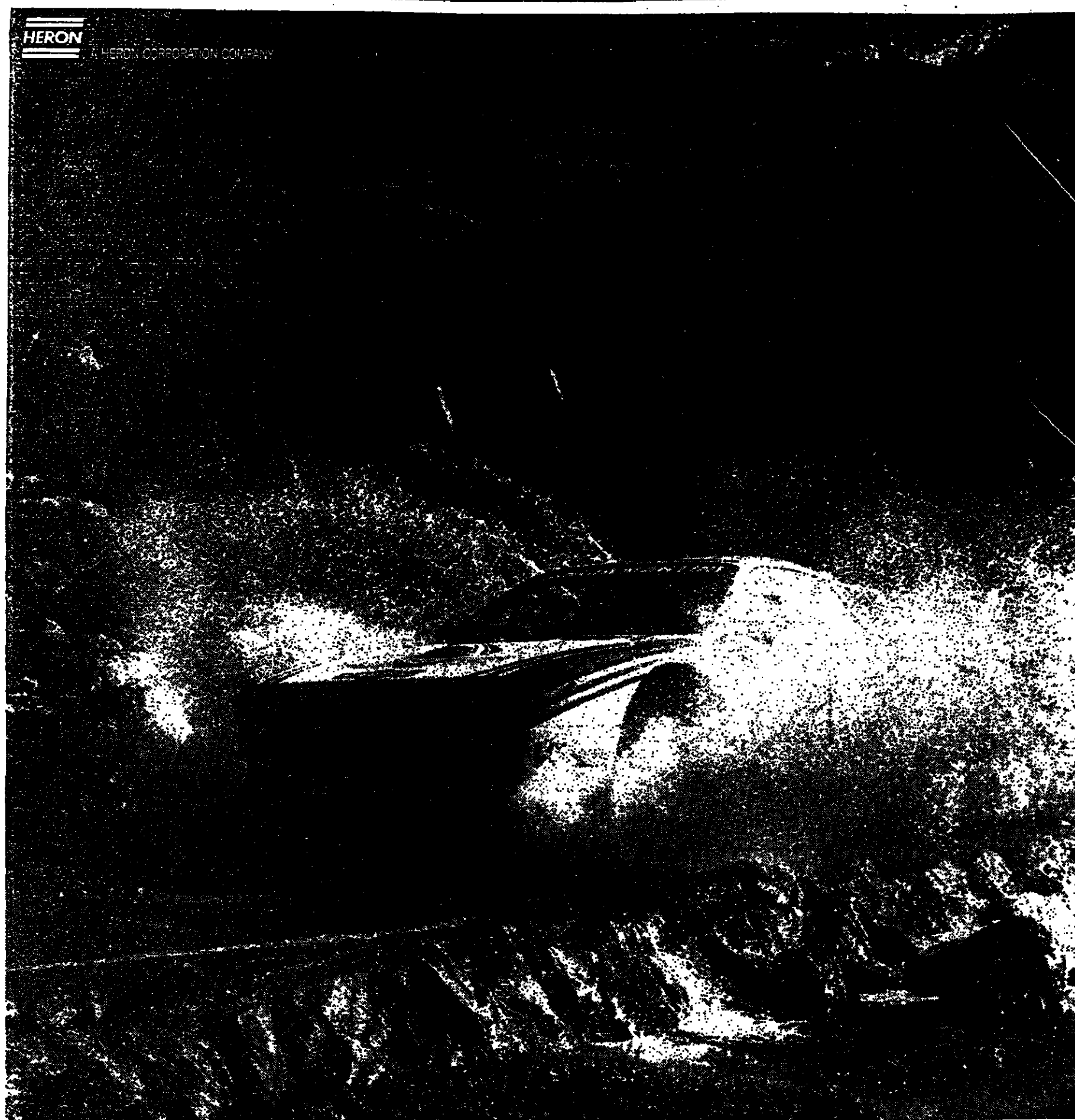
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Reigning World Rally Champions.

Soviet trading with Japan and US declines to Western Europe's benefit

From Theodore Shabad of The New York Times

New York - The Soviet Union, as part of an apparent reorientation of its trade among the leading industrial nations, strengthened its commercial ties with Western Europe last year.

While trade with Western Europe grew by 6.4 per cent in 1983, Soviet economic deals with other industrial countries, notably Japan and the United States, declined by 16 per cent.

This global shift in trading patterns is due in part to continued large Soviet sales of oil and natural gas, growing purchases of modern industrial technology and a decline in imports of grain.

An analysis of trade figures released by Moscow shows that Soviet trade with the industrial democracies last year became increasingly focused on West Germany, Italy and France, the principal Western buyers of Soviet oil and natural gas, as well as the largest Western suppliers of industrial machinery and equipment to the Russians.

The Japanese, by contrast, once Moscow's leading non-communist trade partner, have been falling behind the main West European states. In 1982, West Germany and Italy had more Soviet business than Japan, and last year the French also moved ahead of the Japanese.

Britain bought much more

The past two years have seen a substantial increase in Soviet export sales to the United Kingdom which amounted to \$728m in 1983 up from \$427m in 1982. Soviet imports from Britain were only slightly increased however, with \$408m in 1982 increasing to \$445m in 1983.

Moscow's trade with three other important non-European trading partners - the United States, Canada and Australia - has involved mainly Soviet grain purchases. A general decline in food imports in 1983 drove down the volume of trade with those three countries.

Soviet foreign trade activity was summarized last month in the economic weekly *Ekonomika* by Vladimir Klotchkov, the head of the economic planning department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The shift in trade appears to be related in part to various curbs on doing business with the Russians that have been imposed by the United States and to Western Europe's continuing interest in exchanging Soviet oil and gas for industrial technology. The decline of

Japan among the Russians partners dates from the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in late 1979, whose adverse impact on trade appears to have been greater among the Japanese than among the Europeans. In 1983, Soviet-Japanese trade was down by 18.5 per cent from the 1982 level.

Meanwhile, the leading West European trade partners increased their imports from the Soviet Union in 1983. West Germany by 6 per cent, Italy by 8.5 per cent and France by 16.6 per cent. Oil and gas account for 85 to 90 per cent of the value of Soviet exports to these states.

The Soviet union appears to have maintained a high level of oil exports - about 1.3 million to 1.4 million barrels a day each to Western Europe - despite the Western European decline in production.

Soviet imports of industrial technology from the West rose by 15.1 per cent in 1983, according to the foreign-trade magazine.

The shift away from the European partners, many of them again suppliers, reflected the drop in Soviet grain imports. Trade with the US was down by 13.5 per cent, with Canada by 6 per cent and with Australia by 20 per cent.

Two-thirds of world's countries use torture

By Richard Dowden

About two thirds of the world's governments have recently tortured or cruelly treated prisoners according to Amnesty International.

In a report published yesterday the organization says "torture is usually part of the state controlled machinery to suppress dissent, torture itself has a rationale: isolation, humiliation, psychological pressure and physical pain are means to obtain information, to break down the prisoner and to intimidate those close to him or her."

"The torturer may be after something specific like a signature or a confession, a renunciation of beliefs or the denunciation of relatives, colleagues and friends, who may in turn be seized, tortured and, if possible, broken."

The report also includes a country by country record of reported incidents over the past four years.

The methods cited in the report vary from beating the soles of the feet, cells without lights in which prisoners may be held for more than a year, pain-causing drugs, sensory deprivation, electrodes and an apparatus which inserts a heated metal skewer into a bound victim's anus. There are reports of children being tortured in El Salvador and women being tortured in front of their children in Iran.

"Torture most often occurs during the prisoner's first days in custody when visits by family or lawyers are banned - often under laws giving the authorities wide-ranging powers to deal with emergencies," the report says. It suggests that cover-ups and censorship have made a full survey impossible.

The report recommends that two United Nations proposals outlawing torture and cruelty should be adopted by countries as soon as possible. One of the conventions established universal jurisdiction over alleged torturers and the other would give arrested people the right to notify their families.

"Torture in the Eighties" - an Amnesty International report from Marston Book Service, PO Box 87, Oxford, OX4 1JB. Price £5.70 including post and packaging.

Cocaine haul

Miami (AP) - A Canadian sloop carrying 2,200lb of cocaine, with an estimated street value of more than \$20m (£150m) was detained by the US Coast Guard in the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti, and escorted into Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Ancient village found

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Remains of a Sabine hill-top village found near Rome are claimed to be the oldest traces of this legendary people so closely involved with early Roman history.

The excavations are being conducted by Dr Alessandro Guidi, of the archaeological superintendency for Lazio.

Glenda Jackson is troubled

see Page 21

Polish activists on trial in Katowice

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Two of Poland's most seasoned fighters for human rights, Mr Kazimierz Switon and Mrs Anna Walentynowicz, are due to stand trial today accused of inciting unrest and resisting arrest during a stormy demonstration last year.

Both dissidents have been active in the struggle for union rights for more than a decade. Mr Switon was a founder of the Silesian free trades unions and an early Solidarity organizer in Poland's coal mining region. Miss Walentynowicz was a crane driver in the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk and her dismissal helped to spark off the 1980 strikes that in turn led to the establishment of Solidarity.

A third defendant, a Miss Tomaszewska, is also due to face trial with the others in Katowice today. All three are said to be ill and the court may be forced to postpone the trial until they recover.

To mark the official miners' holiday, St Barbara's Day, a group of Gdansk shipyard workers led by Miss Walentynowicz tried to lay a plaque near the Wulka mine commemorating the workers shot by police two years earlier in December 1981. The group joined up with local Silesian activists led by Mr Switon but were prevented by riot police from getting near the perimeter fence. Angry clashes ensued.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government's spokesman, said yesterday that if the trial goes ahead, it will last three days. The fact of the trial and the verdict - which could mean jail sentences

of three years for the accused - will be an important pointer in the rather enigmatic law-and-order policy of the Jaruzelski Government.

After a loudly trumpeted amnesty under which many hundreds of political prisoners were either released or had their sentences reduced, the past two months have seen an intense period of police activity.

According to official figures there are 427 people in prison for political offences, only 58 of whom are serving jail terms. The rest are under various forms of investigative arrest. Some lawyers believe that the apparent reluctance to bring political prisoners to trial but the apparent zeal in arresting them may be a sign that a new amnesty is planned in July.

Apart from the 427 in jail, there are many Poles, including a prominent lawyer and a number of priests, who have been charged with political offences but who have been allowed to stay at home.

Clandestine bulletins over the past week have catalogued police searches in several dozens of apartments and have reported that the security service has been interrogating many people including school pupils suspected of organizing small-scale political protests.

Mr Urban confirmed yesterday that a schoolboy had been arrested in Gdansk for belonging to an inter-school young Solidarity co-ordinating committee, a young and apparently small underground cell.



Proud family: Mrs Sun Guiling (left), a chicken farmer, and her family pose with their newly-acquired Toyota in Peking. Under Chinese policy, people can now own cars for business.

Corfu court backs Rothschild's land action

From Mario Modiano

Athens - In a move likely to cheer up about 1,000 Britons who own property in Corfu, a local court yesterday left Mr Jacob Rothschild, the banker, in possession of his 5.5-acre estate by annulling a property action by a Greek vendor.

The ruling was a setback for Rothschild's counter-action in which he makes Greek legal history by invoking EEC law to ask the court to confirm his ownership.

The heirs of the original vendor were acting on a 1983 Greek Supreme Court ruling invalidating the 1969 sale contract on the ground that a 55-year-old decree barring foreigners from buying land in Greek frontier areas was also valid for foreign-controlled companies, even though incorporated in Greece.

The ruling was only a judicial declaration but it set a precedent for many Britons who encouraged by the Greek governments of the time, circumvented the 1929 ban by setting up Greek companies which acquired land on Corfu. The ruling put them at the mercy of any greedy vendor or his heirs, who saw the value of Corfu property soar over the years.

In the case of the Rothschild estate, the claimants asked the Corfu court for an order to take possession of the estate bought for £25,000 in 1969 and now worth an estimated £650,000. Two similar claims were filed in Corfu against British owners.

Yesterday, the claimants asked for a postponement of the hearing. Otherwise, under Greek procedure, they would have had to pay in advance 1 per cent of the value of the claim as court dues and duties.

Mr Rothschild's counter-action, based on Community law of equality and freedom of installation, increased the risk that if their suit were lost, they would also suffer the additional loss and court costs.

Mr Anthony Massourides, the Athens lawyer acting for Mr Rothschild, said this was the first time a Greek court was being asked to overrule a Greek Supreme Court judgment for being contrary to European Law.

What also made the case unprecedented in the European context was that Mr Rothschild's company, which controls the Corfu company, is incorporated in Liechtenstein. He is a Briton and therefore a Community citizen, and is seeking the protection of Community law as the sole beneficiary of a non-Community company.

Reagan decides to press ahead with satellite-killer project

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Soviet negotiations on an anti-satellite weapons ban. The President told Congress that the US had been studying a range of possible options for space arms control, with a view to possible negotiations with Moscow if such negotiations would serve American interests.

"However, no arrangements or agreements beyond those already governing military activities in outer space have been found to date that are judged to be in the overall interest of the United States and its allies."

He said the factors that

impeded the identification of effective Asat arms control measures included significant difficulties of verification, diverse sources of threats to US and allied satellites and threats posed by Soviet targeting and reconnaissance satellites that undermined conventional and nuclear deterrence.

The President's report - which also included a classified section on US and Soviet space activities - was a congressional precondition to the release of \$19.4 million in funds appropriated last year for the initial stages of the Asat programme.

Starwars for Europe

Cesme, Turkey (Reuters) - Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday assured NATO that any US "Starwars" missile defence would protect Western Europe as well as the US. A US official said he gave the assurance to fellow ministers as NATO opened a two-day nuclear planning meeting at this Aegean resort.

The "Starwars" project is a space-based defence using lasers and other technology still being developed to destroy intercontinental and medium-range Soviet missiles at various stages of their flight, from launching to reentry.

The official told reporters that Mr Weinberger was asked if the defence would protect Western Europe along with the US. The Secretary of Defence gave a firm, unequivocally positive answer, he said, adding that in his view the ministers were assured by Mr Weinberger's reply.

If a medium-range missile was to be knocked out as it approached its target, a defence would have to be based in Europe, he said. But there was no discussion of who would pay for any "starwars" defence sited in Western Europe.

President Reagan has asked Congress for \$2 billion (£1.37 billion) for research into the project next year. There is considerable scepticism in Congress and among some sections of the US scientific community whether such a space defence is technically possible.

The ministers, meeting under some of the tightest security imposed on a NATO session, were also told by Mr Weinberger that the construction by the Russians of a large phased radar system was in the US view a violation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile agreement. The US, the official added, had abandoned such radar installations.

Washington lawyer to investigate Meese

From Our Correspondent

Washington

Mr Jacob Stein, a Washington lawyer, has been appointed special prosecutor to investigate allegations against Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General-Designate, in connection with his Senate confirmation hearings.

Mr Stein, who is 59 and is a former president of the District of Columbia Bar Association, was named by a special federal judicial panel. Mr Meese on March 22 asked the Justice Department to appoint an independent special counsel to investigate "all allegations relating to me" in connection with his Senate confirmation hearings. The allegations mainly focus on the financial dealings.

Mr Meese, who has the strong support of President Reagan, then said in a statement that it had become clear that the "misrepresentation



Mr Stein: To investigate the President's friend.

and baseless charges had distorted the atmosphere of fairness which must govern any confirmation process."

Malaysia asked to withdraw curbs on press

By Our Foreign Staff

The International Press Institute has called on the Malaysian Government to withdraw the extensive controls on press freedom introduced last week describing them as offensive.

The Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 passed by the Malaysian Parliament gave the Government the power to fine or jail journalists, suspend or close newspapers, and remove the right of appeal.

In a letter to Datuk Musa Hitam, the Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Peter Gailliner, director of the IPI said the new legislation represented an outright denial of press freedom.

Despite his reputation as a ruthless and bloody tyrant, Mr Sekou Touré was a founder of independent Africa, and many African heads of state attended his funeral on Friday, as did Vice-President George Bush of the United States.

The coup throws into further doubt the organization of African Unity's annual summit, scheduled to be held in Conakry in May or June.

Britain 'was entitled to arrest Danish MEP'

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

Britain was quite entitled to arrest the Danish trawler fleet owner and Euro MP, Mr Kent Kirk, for fishing inside territorial waters in January last year.

That is the view of the European Court's Advocate General, Mr Marco Darnon, delivered in Luxembourg yesterday. Final judgment is due by the court by June. It is usual for the Advocate-General's opinion to have a major influence on the outcome.

In Mr Darnon's view, the court should find that Britain was acting properly to protect its fish stocks given that there was no European Community policy. This was not agreed until January 26, three weeks after Mr Kirk was arrested.

Mr Kirk had been allowed to appeal to the court against a £30,000 fine imposed by North Shields magistrates for the offence. He had deliberately got himself arrested at sea to test Britain's right to exclude Danish boats. Dozens of journalists accompanied Mr Kirk on the trip.

He argued that, since there was no Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) agreed at the time, he had every right to fish

Military seizes power in Guinea

Conakry (AP) - Military forces have seized power in the West African state of Guinea, a week after the death of President Ahmed Sekou Touré. Radio Conakry monitored here announced.

Mr Sekou Touré had ruled Guinea with an iron hand since independence from France in 1958, and according to the radio, the coup was greeted with popular enthusiasm.

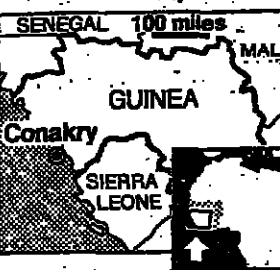
In a statement, the military recovery committee said it had ordered the release of all political detainees arbitrarily deprived of their natural right to freedom and social justice.

It affirmed adherence to the principles of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned movement, and promised to respect international agreements made by Guinea in the past.

The military recovery committee said it would work to ensure the restoration of the basic rights of liberty, dignity and African solidarity.

They said earlier in a first statement that they had dissolved the constitution, the National Assembly and the sole party, the Democratic Party of Guinea which Mr Sekou created and through which he ruled.

The first statement said the committee consisted of Army, Air



Force, Navy, police, gendarmes, customs officers, the militia and Republican Guard.

The military recovery committee also closed the country's borders and airports, suspended mass organizations, banned meetings.

The coup came amid a 40-day period of mourning declared after Mr Sekou Touré's death on March 26 in the United States, where he had been rushed for emergency treatment following a heart attack.

His Prime Minister, Mr Lansana Beavogui, was named to act as head of the country, but observers said a power struggle had been expected to develop in the wake of the death of the Guinean leader.

The committee said a struggle had broken out between the late President's associates whose "hands were stained with the blood of so many innocents".

It paid homage to those Guineans who had died for expressing their opinions over the last 26 years, and promised that the "martyrs" will be rehabilitated and immortalized in our history.

According to Amnesty International more than 4,000 people were arrested for political reasons between 1969 and 1976. The fate of 2,900 remains unknown, although some are believed to have starved to death. About 100 were said by the authorities to have been executed, and nearly 1,000 freed, according to Amnesty.

The new rulers said the military had staged the coup as an act of "duty" to lay the foundation of a "true democracy" and avoid a personal dictatorship in the future.

Despite his reputation as a ruthless and bloody tyrant, Mr Sekou Touré was a founder of independent Africa, and many African heads of state attended his funeral on Friday, as did Vice-President George Bush of the United States.

The coup throws into further doubt the organization of African Unity's annual summit, scheduled to be held in Conakry in May or June.

Relations with Port Moresby at all-time low

300 flee over Indonesian border

From Tony Debonis, Melbourne

country of asylum for Melanesians who were pro-OPM.

The Government of Mr Michael Somare, as well as the previous Government of Mr Julius Chan, has given assurances that anyone crossing the border who reported his presence to the police would not be prosecuted.

The border between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia has been a touchy issue for some time, with reports of Indonesian soldiers engaging in "hot" pursuits into Papua New Guinea chasing OPM rebels.

Relations between Port Moresby and Jakarta reached a new low last week when two jet fighters, believed to be Indonesian, crossed the border and circled the patrol station at Green River about 10 miles from the Irian Jaya border last Tuesday.

The incident prompted a sharp note from the Papua New Guinea Government to Jakarta which offered the explanation

that they might have been Indonesian aircraft taking part in a military exercise in neighbouring Irian Jaya province.

Mr Namaliu spoke out yesterday over the suggestion contained in a leaked Australian Cabinet strategy paper that Canberra should encourage the Papua New Guinea Government to "suppress" OPM rebels as a means of reducing the potential Indonesian threat to the country.

He said that Papua New Guinea would not entertain or tolerate any foreign government telling it or directing it how to deal with OPM or any rebel activities either within the country or across the border.

●JAKARTA: A senior spokesman for Indonesia's armed forces denied that Indonesian F5E fighters had crossed the border and fired a rocket into Papua New Guinea territory during military exercises last week.

More than 300 Irian Jaya refugees are in camps in Papua New Guinea awaiting a decision by the Port Moresby authorities on whether they are to be sent back to Indonesian West Irian.

Most of the refugees fled over the border during February and early last month after fighting was reported to have erupted in Papua New Guinea province, between guerrilla fighters of OPM (Free Papua Movement) and Indonesian troops.

The Papua New Guinea Department of Foreign Affairs in Port Moresby said yesterday that the refugees had been screened by officials to establish whether they were political refugees of just ordinary people.

A decision would be made soon. Mr Rabie Namaliu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, has already said that Papua New Guinea would not send back anyone who feared for his safety in Indonesia. If necessary it would seek a third

anywhere he wanted inside Community waters.

The British order banning Danish boats from entering the waters 12 miles off the Northumberland coast was, he claimed, discriminatory and wrong. He won the support of both the Danish and Dutch Governments for his case.

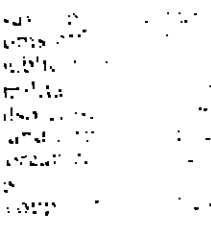
Mr Darnon argued that Britain had been within its rights. This was because the Council of Ministers had failed to agree the CFP from the start of 1983.

Britain passed a Sea Fish Order prohibiting only Danish boats from fishing in its coastal waters. "Such a measure, although abrupt, perhaps maladroitness, in form is discriminatory only in appearance."

It was possible lawfully to exclude the Danish vessels which did not traditionally fish in the water concerned.

Far from being discriminatory, he argued, "it might be thought that there was a particular need for that measure since, in contrast to most of the other member states, Denmark had refused at the time to give the United Kingdom assurance."

and early in the first session that the bill should be considered by the Assembly within the following week. The Democratic Party, of which Mr. S. is a leading member, is in the majority in the Assembly, although the bill is opposed by the State's leading political figures.



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1. *Pharmaceutical Innovation and the Public Good*
 2. *The Role of the State in Health Care*
 3. *Health Care as a Public Good*
 4. *The Ethics of Health Care*
 5. *The Role of the Patient in Health Care*
 6. *The Role of the Doctor in Health Care*
 7. *The Role of the Nurse in Health Care*
 8. *The Role of the Pharmacist in Health Care*
 9. *The Role of the Health Care System in Health Care*
 10. *The Role of the Society in Health Care*

1. *Chlorophyll *a** and *Chlorophyll *b** were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971).

Abstract

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THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

SPECTRUM

The case of the microchip mole

California's Silicone Valley is becoming famous for its leaky security. Ivor Davis reports on the biggest spy trial in 30 years

This month, in a San Francisco courtroom, James Durward Harper Jr, a retired engineer from Mount View in the heart of California's Silicone Valley, goes on trial for selling to the US defence secrets ever to be smuggled out of the US. The Poles passed them on to the Soviet Union.

It will be the biggest spy trial in America since the notorious Rosenberg case in the 1950s.

The secrets - research documents relating to the Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile and other American weapon systems - were at the core of the US defences and their sale to the Russians creates what Robert Galt, special agent to the FBI here calls "damage beyond calculation".

The Poles allegedly paid 49-year-old Harper a quarter of a million dollars for the documents, some 10 times what the notoriously tight-fisted Russians have ever paid for information, say the FBI, and one indicator of just how valuable the information was.

Another indicator is that Yuri Andropov, then head of the KGB, personally signed commendations to

Harper's European contacts who negotiated the deal.

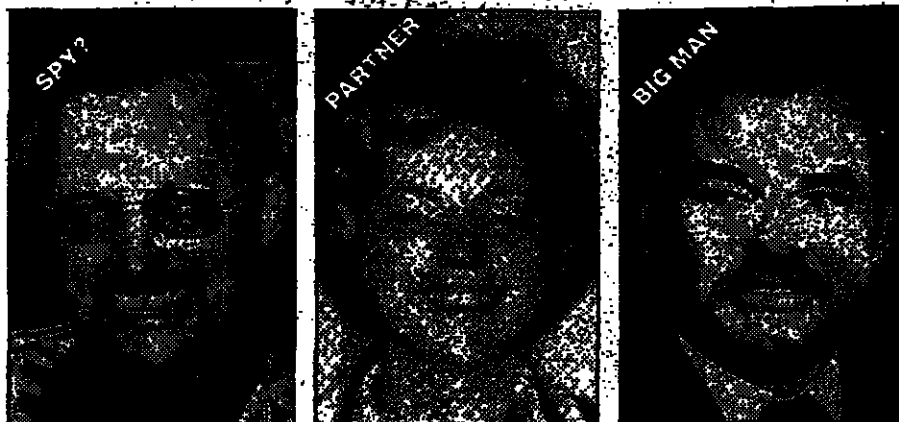
The trial promises to have all the earmarks of a John le Carré thriller involving a Soviet "shopping list" of US defence secrets carried around by Polish agents and passed on to Harper, secret rendezvous in Switzerland, Austria and Mexico City and a palatial villa outside Warsaw, and a team of international agents with code names like The Big Man, The Minister and The Source.

The story that will unfold in the federal courtroom of district judge Samuel Conti is unfortunately, in these days of ever changing electronic advances and fierce competition, an all too predictable one and Harper seems to fit the mould of American spies, who sell out their country for greed rather than ideology.

At just under six feet tall he tried to control his tendency to overweight by jogging, preferred the California upwardly mobile "uniform" of designer jeans and looked interchangeable with any of the thousands of engineers who work at the computer terminals throughout Santa Clara Valley, microchip capital of the world. Physically, he owed more to George Smiley than James Bond and he lived modestly in a two bedroom condominium.

However he did have a brilliant knack for invention himself, having created a highly commercial digital stopwatch. But he was no businessman and spent himself out of several companies with high living and international travel.

He was in some financial straits when he married Ruby Louise Schuler, a 39-year-old former executive secretary for Systems Control Inc, a



On trial: James Durward Harper (left) and (centre) his now-dead wife, Ruby Louise Schuler, right, William Bell Hugle

Silicone Valley defence contractor, which now belongs to the American arm of British Petroleum.

It is now believed the pair married purely for convenience after they had begun their espionage activities.

Mrs Schuler had top security clearance in an industry where companies worry more about spies from other firms and commercial competitors like Japan, than they do about national security.

Systems Control Inc had top secret documents in its Palo Alto offices relating to its contract with the Ballistics Defense Advanced Technology Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

By the time Harper was arrested in October 1983, Schuler, an alcoholic, had died from cirrhosis of the liver, but not before she had apparently given him regular access, late at night and on weekends, to the offices of SCI where he amassed photocopies of documents crucial to US security.

Przychodziec, officially a member of the Polish Ministry of Machine Industry, but in fact an officer of the SB, Służba Bezpieczeństwa, the Polish intelligence service.

Przychodziec became Harper's regular conduit for information from then on. Harper turned over to him initially enough material to whet the Pole's appetite for more.

In tapes released by his lawyer, Harper says, "I gave him... a copy of the front page, title page, table of contents and one chapter of all the documents I had available at that time. The Big Man assured the minister I could be trusted and the minister was very interested."

In the months that followed Harper turned over materials to the Poles in a variety of locations in Europe and Central America, according to court documents, and in June 1980 he sold the Minuteman file to the Poles at a villa outside Warsaw, for a reported \$250,000. He had asked for a million and allegedly boasted to friends that he had a reservoir of additional information hidden in his home.

Meanwhile the process of his downfall had begun.

First an American spy behind the Iron Curtain, with highly placed Polish contacts, in 1979 tipped off his chief that top level US secrets were being leaked out of the country. They were unable to trace the leak.

Then suddenly in September 1981 an unnamed Los Angeles attorney contacted the CIA and said he represented a client who had been selling secrets to the Poles. In exchange for immunity from prosecution, his client, he said, was willing to become a double agent. Surprisingly, the US Government said no deal.

It was not until March 1983, according to the FBI, that they were tipped off about Harper. He was arrested seven months later and has been held without bail.

Harper's trial will once again turn the spotlight on the Silicone Valley and its lax security.

"Right now there are 30 more cases of espionage in the area," notes John Shea, a consultant with Sierra Technology Group Inc, of Tahoe City, which tracks advanced technology trends for US technology. "And there are at least 150 more where there are problems."

"With the exception of the major defence contractors," says Shea, "security in the Silicone Valley is deplorable."

In an atmosphere of fierce competition and boom today, bust tomorrow companies, espionage flourishes - not always as clear cut as in the Harper case. But security officials admit many entrepreneurs with an eye to the buck sell advanced technological products to European middlemen knowing full well they will end up being analysed and reproduced in the Soviet Union.

The Harper trial is due to begin on April 24 and highlights just how serious the consequence of the Silicone Valley's shoddy security can be.

US Attorney John C. Gibbons is asking for the maximum sentence for Harper - life imprisonment. But Judge Conti has ruled that the case has grave consequences for national security that if a jury finds Harper guilty he may advise them to give Harper the death penalty.

It would be the first such sentence for peacetime espionage since Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were electrocuted in the Cold War of the 1950s.

Lynn Seymour concludes her story with a brief brush with the movie moguls

Stardom - for a fortnight

Herbert Ross was on the line from the States. He had directed the musical numbers for the film version of *Funny Girl*, which would make him a very popular film director. Herbert and *Funny Girl* producer, Ray Stark, were developing a Broadway musical, with a dance setting, that could be transferred to the screen. Americans were swooning over "Swinging London" and Ray Stark, said Herbert, sought a "real London look" as the heroine, Herbert preferred a new face - an actress-dancer who would bowl over New York theatre critics. He wanted me. "I told Ray you were perfect," said Herbert. Could I fly to New York to hear details first-hand from Stark and Terence Rattigan, who was writing the script?

Within a week I was surrounded by Empire furniture in a suite at the Drake Hotel on a sultry July day when the humidity billows over Manhattan like an airtight canopy. A secretary in Ray Stark's office at Columbia Pictures advised me to relax and do whatever I wanted. They would be in touch with me. They were waiting for Terence Rattigan. Rattigan was in Bermuda. I telephoned New York. "Hums, but mums and houseboys informed me that everyone was out of town, on other islands: Minorca, Capri, Martha's Vineyard, Fire Island."

Since I didn't know when they might telephone, I did not leave my hotel. The humidity would frizz my hair. My "kooky clothes" would be stained by perspiration and assaulted by dusty grit. Not daring to put on a wrinkle of weight, I sat in the air-conditioned suite consuming gallons of iced tea and eating watercress salads.

Finally they called. Ray Stark was giving a party that evening and his limousine would pick me up at eight o'clock. I bathed and perfumed and powdered myself. I painted my cheekbones in a three-way mirror: were they too high or too low? The chauffeur waited while I changed the colour of my lips from pale pomegranate to rosebud pink.

As soon as I entered the midtown apartment smiling at a mass of faces, Ray Stark, a big, amiable man who fitted my image of a movie magnate, rushed to greet me. "Lynn Seymour?" I nodded. He stood back, looking me up and down. "Herbie's right. You're perfect!"

Ray Stark led me into a room as vast as a museum gallery and solicitously made a little speech about me to various leas-blonde-haired women who seemed to have stepped from the pages of *Vogue* and sunburnt chaps in aviator shades, loafers and shirts open to the navel that I did not particularly want to see. The chaps were discussing "deals" and "grosses". I heard two muttering, "But is she bankable...?" Ray says she is. "The chaps were agents who packaged multi-million-dollar film projects. I began to feel slightly self-conscious. Herbie Ross arrived. Hugging me, he repeated that with Terence Rattigan in a day or two, Rattigan would outline the scenario. "But Herbie, I can't sing," I said, pondering my bankability. The musical was about a dancer, he answered. All I had to do was act and dance and talking a couple of songs. Could Vivien Leigh sing?

Hell, no. But she did warble in *Tovarich*. I mustn't worry. Herbie went on. He and Stark wanted a dancy show.

Again the chauffeur picked me up at eight and we drove a couple of blocks. I was deposited in front of some townhouses with black wrought-iron grillwork and cast-iron jockey statues, symbols of the "21" club.

Some rather heavy mouths dropped into their chortle claims when I crossed the dining-room. The maître d' was undecided as to whether I was wearing a skirt or a sash. Ray Stark beamed. Herbert winked. Terence Rattigan - well, he looked as if he had just taken a laxative.

Horribly elegant in grey suit and maroon tie

Rattigan was not my type. And not because he had the mouth of a crocodile and petulant reddish eyes. Jeffrey Solomons had a flat in Chelsea where we converged for Sunday teas. One Sunday Jeffrey appeared at the door highly agitated. "The boy across the hall tried to kill himself for the second time. First it was sleeping pills. Last night it was the gas. Dear Aunt Edna - he's Terence Rattigan's lover. Poor boy. I wonder what goes on." Jeffrey had opened all his windows. "I'm airing out the room. It's not very amusing to live in a flat where your neighbour always wants to do himself in." I remember pitying the boy and wondering what goes on?

The master of the well-made play, as critics described Rattigan, was horribly elegant in a grey suit and silk maroon tie. Beneath the tailored, exquisitely groomed, surface lurked a cruel individual. I suspected: His face was rather set. Rattigan expressed his enthusiasm for the eloquence and beauty of dance - the spirituality of the body in motion. "Yes, that's all quite true."

I said sweetly, "But the reality is sweat. Sweat that won't wash out of your practice clothes. And farting in rehearsal is not uncommon either." Terence Rattigan shuddered. Ray Stark hid his mirth behind a linen napkin. Herbert had warned that I was a "kook". He quickly manoeuvred our waiter into asking if we desire another cocktail before dinner.

We settled down to a serious conference. Rattigan outlined the story, entitled *Pas de Deux*. Wretched title, thought I, but... who knows? I was to play a kooky young dancer who lived in Chelsea. My boyfriend, whom I had known since childhood, was also a dancer. We both developed a passion for a mesmerizing, Diaghilev figure. The lad, far more ambitious than the kooky girl, wrote and wrote the choreographer-impersonator for himself. Quite crushed, the girl stops dancing, presumably to open a needlepoint shop on Clapham Common.

I listened without comment but two days later told Herbert that the story was utterly phony, fake, untrue, naïf, a pansy rewrite of *Design for Living*, which is pretty gay itself, but astutely modern and funny, with the sharp and their wordy girlfriend all having sex, at the final curtain, we assume. Dear Aunt Edna - he's Terence Rattigan's lover. Poor boy. I wonder what goes on. I was written in 1932. Noël Coward was ahead of his time. Rattigan was not. The project died, natural death.

"Goodbye to Broadway. Goodbye to Hollywood. I had been handled like a new superstar for two weeks. But in the end, she never existed. Goodbye to all that."

Extracted from Lynn Seymour's *The Autobiography of Lynn Seymour with Paul Gardner*, to be published by Granada on April 26 at £10.95.

Yesterday's picture of Lynn Seymour and Frederick Ashton was taken by Anthony Craxley.



Terence Rattigan: master of the well-made play

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Lies and tries of touring South Africa

moreover... Miles Kington

Should the rugby tour of South Africa by an England team go ahead? Today we print some of the most interesting letters we have received from readers on the subject.

From Major Albert Hall Sir, I have been following rugby since before the Second World War and let me say in passing that if the Germans had played rugby, that campaign would have been a much cleaner fought affair. There is nothing quite like a good hard world war between two genuine amateur sides. I have nothing against the Americans, but I can't help feeling that the entry of American football players at a delicate juncture in 1941 was unfortunate to say the least. I have seen a game of American football and I am not surprised that casualties were so high from 1941 onwards.

Where was I, I am sorry, I've forgotten.

Yours faithfully,

From the Bishop of Bath and Glos. Sir, I think all of us who have played rugby must be in two minds about the tour of South Africa. On the one hand, nothing that seems to support apartheid must be tolerated. On the other, to subject the South African to a dose of English rugby as it is played at the moment might prove so exasperating for them that they will be brought to their senses. If you thought the South African pass laws were inhuman, wait till you have seen the way the English interpret passing regulations.

The Venice Marathon

Entry forms may be obtained from me for the most interesting race in the marathon calendar. If you are fed up with conventional marathons. To be held in May, the Venice Marathon is the only one in the world which is held half on land, half in water. Entrants must be able to

run, swim and speak O level Italian; this is because the race goes along streets and canals, and because there is a three-hour break in the middle for lunch. For more details, send an SAE to Venice Marathon, Moreover Pasta Concession, The Times.

Might I say in conclusion that all rugby players are the same colour after a game of rugby as anyone who has been privileged to be in the showers will know.

Yours etc.

From Mrs Harriet Greenham Sir, I don't want to seem frivolous, but has anyone established if any blacks in South Africa actually want to play rugby? And can anyone think of a good reason for them to want to? I can't help noticing that West Indians have made great contributions to cricket and football in this country, but have left rugby severely alone. Has it occurred to anyone that perhaps blacks are too sensible to get mixed up in this distressingly violent yet shatteringly boring game? I personally am married to a rugby player who I never see on Saturday and who spends all Sunday in a foul mood, and I don't think that I can take much more of it. If any good looking, cricket-loving West Indians would like to get in touch, I already have my dancing shoes on.

Yours sincerely,

From Mr Fred Waldorf Sir, I have never been to South Africa, but I am told that the majority of the population is subject to a hideous set of regulations which you cannot help infringing twice a minute and which makes life a nightmare. This sounds exactly the same to me as English national

rugby. My solution: let the team go there, but not come back. Yours faithfully,

From Mr Osbert Partridge, RA Sir, I am horrified to hear that the England rugby team may be going abroad to South Africa. "Have things really come to this pass, that we cannot afford to keep them in this country? The English rugby team is one of the jewels of the national heritage, and having to sell them to a bunch of jumped-up Dutchmen breaks my heart. Surely, if we club together, we could still afford to keep them here? I enclose £5 to start the ball rolling.

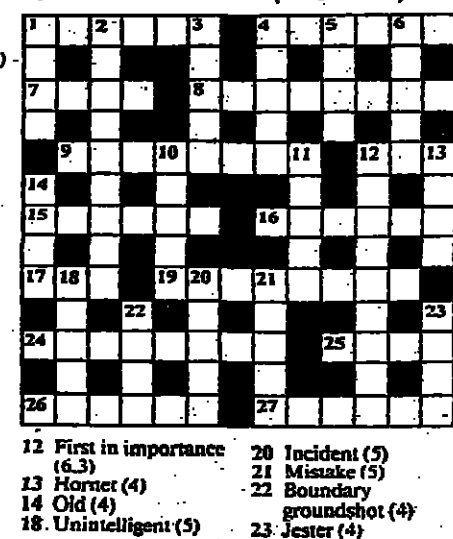
Yours faithfully,

From The Brochure Officer, South African Embassy Sir, Did you know that more dropped goals were scored by black people last year in South Africa than any other country in Africa? That there is already a fully qualified coloured touch judge in Johannesburg? And that oil was recently discovered under our national rugby stadium? These are just a few of the many things that people don't seem to know about us. To learn more, just send for our free brochure "Don't Believe their Lies - Believe our Lies!" Yours as usual.

Tomorrow The Times Profile: David Blunkett, controversial leader of Sheffield City Council.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 309)

- ACROSS
- Grab for (4,2)
 - Professional pay (6)
 - Chinese vessel (4)
 - Sixer (8)
 - Malfaction corrector (8)
 - Up to date (3)
 - Furrow (6)
 - Indicating powder (6)
 - Do it yourself (1,1,1)
 - Restorer (8)
 - Wrecker (8)
 - 1940 Japanese war minister (4)
 - Close friend (6)
 - Unintelligent (5)
- DOWN
- African charm (4)
 - Obligatory (9)
 - Gemini (5)
 - Head-cloth (5)
 - Not effective (4)
 - Pleasant trip (5)
 - Old (4)
 - Incident (5)
 - Misake (5)
 - Boundary groundshot (4)
 - Jester (4)



SOLUTION TO No 308

ACROSS: 1 Jumper 5 Base 8 Light 9 Lanyard 11 Describe 13 Jink 15 Londonium 18 Mark 19 Largesse 22 Whitsun 23 Trend 24 Whir 25 Accept

DOWN: 2 Urges 3 Kit 4 Rule 6 Britannia 8 Bone 6 Stadium 7 Glade 10 Dyke 12 Rent 14 Wing 15 Larnish 16 Show 17 Ready 20 Sleep 21 Tear 23 Tie

ORNELLA MUTI

in the role of Odette de Crocy



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WEDNESDAY PAGE

TALKBACK

Slow-down for elderly

From Mrs Morque Cornwell, Banstead Place Mobility Centre, Park Road, Banstead, Surrey. Having read J. R. Spencer's excellent article "When time overtakes the elderly driver" (Friday Page, March 23), I would like to add that not only does driving provide something worth living for but it also prolongs the length of time elderly people can maintain their independence.

When a general practitioner is asked for an opinion as to whether his patient is still fit to be insured to drive a car, he has a dilemma. If he considers that the time has come for driving to cease because of the potential danger not only to his patient but also to other road users, he realises that he is, at the same time, removing the vital tool of mobility from his patient. This can be the beginning of a downhill spiral: elderly people require some physical exercise within their capabilities and the mental stimulation of contact with the outside world.

There are now a number of electrically powered pavement vehicles which travel no faster than 4 mph. I feel that we should concentrate on showing people whose mobility is restricted but who are not disabled how they can maintain a level of safe mobility in their locality. Many of them would opt for this slower vehicle voluntarily and others, who were told they could no longer drive, could be directed towards alternative means of transport.

Upsetting moves

From Jackie Boffin, 11 Pointers Close, Chichester, Newbury, Berks. (Area organizer, Pre-School Playgroups Association). I find it extraordinary that an obviously intelligent and caring mother like Lynn Peters (First Person, March 28) can expect a child of 4½ years to have coped, in two short years, with the transitions from "playgroup to nursery school, and nursery to infant school" and then with a change of home and school without experiencing any trauma or upset. Most adults would show signs of stress if uprooted from their job and surroundings four times in two years, so why are young children so frequently subjected to this sort of treatment?

If a nursery school place will become available shortly after a child would start playgroup, why start at playgroup? If a child is happily settled in a playgroup, why start nursery school? If you know you will be moving house in your child's first term at school, and the child is not yet starting school, why start at school? There is no legal obligation on parents to send children to school, or to educate them otherwise until the term after that in which they become five.

Please, let us have more consideration of the needs of our young children.

Shirley Conran's latest idea, the no-cook week, gave mothers hours of fun and freedom from kitchen chores, reports Penny Perriek

Having taken the guilt out of Housework with her book *Superwoman*, Shirley Conran is longing to do the same thing with cooking. She says, "I should like to see women do less cooking and, in fact, no cooking after 6pm except for maybe once a week. As a full-time wage earner, I was tired for 20 years because I had to prepare that awful evening meal, on top of a full day's work. I think there is still anxiety about cooking up with the Joneses. Those over-elaborate 1960s dinner parties where the whole focus of the evening was food still continue."

To test her conviction that women spend far too much time in the kitchen, Ms Conran organized a No-Cook Week project at her old school, St Paul's. The mothers of St Paul's pupils were asked to stop cooking for a whole week, while their daughters were asked to report on the results. Cash prizes were offered by a kindly businessman after he had heard Shirley Conran talk about the need to reduce women's anxiety about cooking.

Today and every day for the rest of their lives, some 200,000 people in Britain will subject themselves to what one medical expert has called the "tyranny of the needle". They have no choice. For one in three of the nation's diabetics, those daily injections of insulin are the only defence against the third biggest killer in the world, after heart disease and cancer.

A year ago, a nationwide programme was launched to reduce the risks of error in insulin dosage and generally improve safety among patients. Whereas insulin previously was prepared in a variety of strengths of unit per millilitre of solution, it is now available in one single strength of 100 units, now known to every diabetic as U100.

The changeover is not yet complete, but it is generally agreed among specialists and patients that it has gone well. However, pressure is now growing on the Department of Health to take a further step towards reducing the "tyranny" of the needle - but it is being resisted.

At present, diabetes is a glass and metal syringe which is available on the National Health Service. An increasing number of doctors, however, are strongly advocating that plastic syringes, widely available through chemists' shops, should replace them, on prescription. They



School report: Prizewinners (left to right) Naomi Sachs, Martha Tiffin, Amy Douglas, Jane Ewbank

Derek Dutton, the head of public relations for North Thames Gas, helped Shirley judge the entries and offered seven consolation prizes. Irish linen tea towels - as well. One might have thought that Mr Dutton would have a keen interest in keeping women hovering near the stove, but a splendid cook himself, he thoroughly approves of better organization in the kitchen.

He says, "People are accustomed to cooking in a conservative,

traditional way and this is really not necessary, they cook that way because their mothers and grandmothers did. Research shows that mothers of families are very conservative - they still think that washing should be done on a Monday. A well-organized woman could reduce the majority of her cooking to once a fortnight; bulk cooking also cuts down the washing-up. Incidentally, Monday is the worst day of the week to do the

washing, because you're clearing up after the weekend. The secret is to think in terms of organizing your time, rather than organizing your cooking."

The results of the no-cook week showed that not cooking could be a liberating and useful experience. One mother was able to read "her first paperback since 1969". In gratitude to Shirley Conran, it certainly should have been *Lace*. Another went for her first job

interview in 15 years. One mother was reported as getting very fidgety when the time came at which she would normally be cooking but, even so, she managed to complete half a tapestry. Several no-cooks said that resorting to raw and ready-prepared foodstuffs saved them an hour a day, one of them adding that it seemed like more "because it was emotionally 'resting'". Although bought-in food turned out to be initially expensive, one girl observed

that since food was bought and stored to be eaten when people felt hungry rather than for specific meals, items actually lasted longer and lowered the cost.

Naomi Sachs, a senior pupil at St Paul's, who won the first prize for her report, said: "Mealtimes proved to be much less of a lengthy affair so all of us, not only my mother but time for lots of other activities during the evening. On the whole we ate much more healthily - not much meat, more salads, fruit and vegetables." During the no-cook week, her mother, Sian, discovered the pleasure of reading a book in the early part of the evening rather than "last thing at night when she's normally too tired from cooking so much to enjoy it".

Martha Tiffin and Amy Douglas were joint second-prizewinners. Martha's mother, Elaine, didn't actually start writing the pornographic novel she'd planned but otherwise had a jolly time during no-cook week, including having old friends to dinner. Amy Douglas's mother, Angela, on the first day of no-cook week, was found putting something in the oven "but she had a bit of a hangover from a party so probably forgot".

Not every mother was enthusiastic about the idea. One decided to postpone her no-cook week because she was currently too busy to stop cooking while another spent a lot of the week reading cooking books. This suggests that you can take a woman out of the kitchen but you can't always take the kitchen out of a woman.

Insulin - throwing money away?

Board's department of community medicine, says: "The difference in syringe costs is exceeded by the cost of wasted dead space in glass syringes." He says the wasted volume is equivalent of 4.5 units of U100, but is undetectable in disposable syringes, and amounts to £30,000-worth of insulin a year on Tayside. The differential in costs of syringes, he says, amounts to just £20,000 a year.

Dr Arnold Bloom, consultant diabetician and chairman of the British Diabetic Association, has conducted a study of the rival

syringes in which he concluded: "Disposable syringes are lighter, not apt to break, do not need boiling or keeping in spirit containers, and are easier to take on holiday. Introducing disposable syringes would allow considerable national saving."

Dr Bloom now says: "The Department of Health maintains that disposable syringes can only safely be used once, and refuses to put them on prescription. The manufacturers insist they cannot guarantee sterility after one use, but there is abundant evidence that

it is absolutely safe to go on using the same syringe and needle.

"In the view of the BDA, reusing a disposable syringe three or four times is quite acceptable. We had been making this argument to the Department of Health, but the changeover to U100 took priority last year and we needed the good will of the Department to see it through."

Manufacturers Rand-Rocket supply the NHS with £500,000 worth of glass insulin syringes a year and also produce disposable syringes for the retail market. Managing director Mr Randy Vickers acknowledges that more doctors are advocating the use of plastic syringes, but he warns: "We are concerned that disposable syringes should be used over and over again. Some consultants suggest they can be used for two weeks, or up to a month."

"I don't agree with the argument over dead space. I don't think there is much wastage of insulin in this way."

The firm has recently complained to the Independent Broadcasting Authority about an advertisement seen on Channel 4 for a disposable syringe produced by rival manufacturers, Becton-Dickinson, of Oxford. Rand-Rocket were unhappy that the word "unique" was used.

Mr Arthur Jackson, marketing

director of Becton-Dickinson, says: "Our products are exclusively for single use, but we knew a fair number of people take it upon themselves to use them more than once. The only advice we can give is to use the syringe once. We cannot guarantee total sterility thereafter." But he adds: "There is a large feeling among diabetics that disposable syringes should be available on prescription, and I can understand that viewpoint."

Disposable syringes are usually sold in packs of 200. These packs cost about £2.60, but diabetics can obtain VAT exemption certificates which would reduce the cost by about 32 pence.

The Department of Health continues to resist the pressure for disposable syringes on prescription, however. "The cost factor is the principal reason", a spokesman says.

"We don't fully endorse the belief among some consultants that these syringes can be reused safely. Standards of sterility have to be maintained at a very high level and the department could not allow itself to be responsible for the consequences to patients' health which might occur with the reuse of disposable syringes."

Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Nuts about praline

The invention of praline, that toothsome confection of roasted almonds and brittle caramel, is attributed to a cook employed by Marshall du Plessis-Praslin. And all I can tell you about him is that he lived from 1598 to 1675 which was a fair span for those days.

Almonds, hazelnuts, or a mixture of the two are the nuts called for in traditional recipes, and equal quantities of nuts and sugar are the classic proportions. Light toasting intensifies the flavour of the nuts and an almond praline can be made very simply by putting the blanched nuts and sugar in a pan and heating them slowly together without water until the sugar melts, by which time the nuts will have browned a little too. But as timing is critical with this method, and it does not do for hazels which must be roasted before the skins can be rubbed off, I prefer to make the caramel separately.

Praline
Makes about 1 litre (1½ pints)
6 egg yolks
6oz caster or soft brown sugar
½ teaspoon salt
750ml (1½ pints) milk
½ teaspoon real vanilla extract
110g (4oz) crushed praline

Put the egg yolks in a pan with the sugar and salt and whisk until the mixture is very pale and the whisk leaves a trail. Slowly add the milk, whisking continuously.

Cook the custard on a low heat, stirring constantly, until it is thick enough to coat the back

10 to 15 minutes, or until they are lightly browned.

Oil a metal tray or marble slab and put the nuts on it in a closely packed single layer.

Put the sugar in a saucepan with the water and heat slowly until the sugar has dissolved completely. Wash down into the syrup any crystals sticking to the sides of the pan. Bring the syrup to the boil and cook until it turns a pale amber colour and gives off a distinct caramel smell. Do not allow it to darken too much or the caramel will be too unpleasantly bitter. Pour the syrup over the nuts and leave it to set hard.

As soon as the sugar is cold and hard, break up the praline and grind or crush it to a fine powder.

Praline is especially delicious, so store it in an airtight jar as soon as possible. Real praline ice cream is one of the most worthwhile flavours to make at home.

Praline ice cream
Makes about 1 litre (1½ pints)
6 egg yolks
6oz caster or soft brown sugar
½ teaspoon salt
750ml (1½ pints) milk
½ teaspoon real vanilla extract
110g (4oz) crushed praline

Put the egg yolks in a pan with the sugar and salt and whisk until the mixture is very pale and the whisk leaves a trail. Slowly add the milk, whisking continuously.

Cook the custard on a low heat, stirring constantly, until it is thick enough to coat the back

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

of a wooden spoon. Do not allow it to boil or the mixture will curdle.

Take the custard off the heat and stir in the vanilla and praline. Pour the mixture into freezer trays or a plastic box, and when it is quite cold, put it in the freezer.

Freeze until the ice has the texture of heavy slush, then turn it into a cold bowl and beat it vigorously before returning it to the freezer until firm.

Praline is also an excellent flavoured for hot soufflés, especially if a layer of praline is sandwiched between two layers of soufflé mixture which have already been flavoured with it. Without this extra layer these soufflés can taste too eggy.

Praline soufflés
Serves four
300ml (½ pint) milk
3 large eggs, separated, plus 2 whites
55g (2oz) caster or soft brown sugar
55g (2oz) plain flour
12 tablespoons crushed praline
4 tablespoons rum or cognac
½ teaspoon salt

Generously butter four straight-sided 300 ml (½ pint) soufflé dishes and dust them with granulated sugar. Alternatively, prepare a 900ml (1½ pint) dish in the same way.

Bring the milk to the boil and set it aside. Beat together the egg yolks and sugar until the mixture is pale and light, then whisk in the flour followed by the hot milk. Return the mixture to the milk pan, and bring it to a simmer whisking constantly.

Simmer the custard for a minute or two then take it off the heat. Stir in 8 tablespoons of the praline and the rum or cognac.

Whisk the egg whites with the salt until they form stiff peaks. Fold a little of the mixture into the custard to lighten it a little before folding all the custard into the rest of the mixture.

Divide half the soufflé mix-

ture between the prepared dishes, sprinkle the remainder of the crushed praline over it and top with the rest of the soufflé mixture. Bake the soufflés at once in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for 12 to 15 minutes for the small ones, about 20 minutes for the large dish. Serve the soufflés when they are well risen but still a little tremble.

Brioche de Saint-Genis is a traditional recipe from the French Alps that incorporates crushed praline into a rich, bread-like cake. Eat it freshly baked with tea or coffee.

Brioche de Saint-Genis
Serves 10
10g (½ oz) fresh yeast, or ½ teaspoon granular dried yeast
6 tablespoons tepid water
500g (1lb 2oz) plain flour
30g (1 oz) sugar
½ teaspoon salt
6 large eggs, lightly beaten
340g (12 oz) unsalted butter, diced and softened
200g (7 oz) crushed praline

Mix the yeast with the tepid (ideally 43°C/110°F) water and a pinch of the sugar. Whisk the mixture lightly and set it in a warm place for about five minutes, or until the yeast has dissolved.

Sift the flour, sugar and salt into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the beaten eggs and the yeast mixture. Using your hands or a wooden spoon, incorporate the flour into the liquid to make a well-blended dough. Add the butter and work it in thoroughly with your hands.

At this stage the dough is extremely slack and sticky, but it will become more coherent through two rising periods. Cover the bowl with a damp cloth or plastic wrap and leave it to rise for two hours or more, until it is light and airy. Knock it down and transfer it to a clean bowl. Cover it again and leave it to rise, preferably overnight, in a cool place. It is this second, long, slow rising which will give the brioche its fine texture.

Beat three quarters of the crushed praline into the dough and turn it into a large well-buttered brioche tin or a straight sided round cake tin of at least 20 cm (8 inches) diameter and with 5 cm (2 inches) deep sides. Sprinkle the remaining praline over the top and leave the brioche to stand for about 30 minutes to allow the dough to recover.

Bake the brioche in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 4) for about 45 minutes, or until it is well risen and firm. Cool in its tin for five minutes before turning it out.

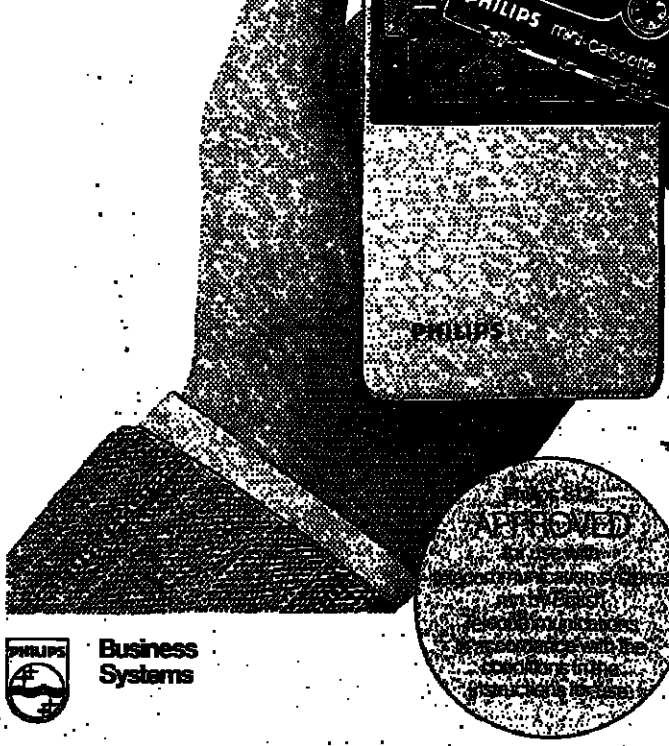
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THE TIMES DIARY

Towing the party line

Only weeks after the Monday Club was accused of harbouring extremists, it learns the right-wing Tory group now plans to launch an aerial assault over Greenham Common. In a letter to the club's executive council, a copy of which was passed anonymously to the *Diary* yesterday, chairman David Storey reveals plans to hire an aircraft to tow a publicity banner condemning the peace women and supporting the cruise. Members are asked to contribute towards the three-a-half-hour flight, estimated to cost about £500, and to conduct a message for the banner - to include *The Monday Club* - in not more than 35 words. Mr Storey, who tells me money is no object, had better start homing into his radio. I'm told that if, during his stunt, the Monday Club's pilot picks up a reply on the 12.1 frequency over Greenham Common, he could be bombed out. Literally.

Painted ladies?

Audacious as it may sound, Paul Raymond is bringing culture to Soho. On April 13 he is staging the classy but racy production of *The Yellow Wallpaper* at his Boulevard Theatre, which has been empty for nearly two years. The theatre - within stripping distance of his Raymond Revuebar - was once the launching pad for comedians such as *Comic Strip's* Rik Mayall. A Raymond employee described the play - about a repressed butler's collector - as a "fantasy thriller." Director Brian McDermott, scarcely able to contain his excitement, said: "It's amazing - a play about sexual fantasies in the home of sexual fantasies."

Drawing a blank

An organization known as the Ethical Investment Research and Information Service (EIRIS) distributed several hundred copies of a factsheet during last week's Stop the City campaign inviting readers to apply for details of any company which might be suspected of involvement in arms deals. EIRIS is unlikely to be inundated with replies. It omitted to include its address or telephone number.

Insecurity

The truth will out. At a press conference to launch Norman Fowler's social security review, Tony Newton, junior health and social security minister, casually referred to the Department of Employment as the Department of Unemployment. A sharp dig in the ribs from Fowler, seated next to him, brought a hasty correction, but not before journalists made capital out of the poor fellow's blunder.



Barry Fantoni

Fan fare

A. L. Rowse has added a surprising dedication to his latest *Modern Edition of Shakespeare's Sonnets*, just out from Macmillan: "To President Ronald Reagan for his professional appreciation of William Shakespeare." Dr Rowse, certainly our most prolific writer on Elizabethan history and literature, has never met the President but was impressed by the informed interest in Shakespeare during an exchange of letters. The correspondence began when Reagan, then Governor of California, sent a fan letter after reading Rowse's *Shakespeare: The Man*, recommended to him by their mutual friend, Caspar Weinberger. The "professional appreciation" in the dedication refers to the President's former career and to his sole Shakespearean role as Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, which he described to Rowse as "good training for dealing with Congress."

Red curtains

The future of Moscow's avant-garde Taganka Theatre teetered between doom and uncertainty yesterday, apparently reflecting a behind-the-scenes struggle in the Kremlin's cultural corridors of power. Until last month it was the baby of the late Yuri Lyubimov, now in exile in the West, not least for his continued criticism of Soviet cultural bureaucrats.

Yesterday, a notice went up at the theatre cancelling Lyubimov's production of *Master and Margarita*, and announcing that the theatre would be closed for the rest of this week. Hours later, administrators backtracked, saying the play would go ahead after all, but only to a specially selected audience in closed session. Observers see it as either a move to end hero worship of Lyubimov, or a prelude to the final fall of the theatre's curtains.

PHS

Give us the benefit, Mr Fowler

Nicholas Timmins calls for frankness and full public debate as the welfare state is put under its most stringent review for 40 years

Norman Fowler has launched what he has billed as "the most substantial examination of the social security system since the Beveridge report 40 years ago" under the banner of open government.

After the leak of the 1982 Think Tank report on the future of the welfare state sent shock waves through the electorate and the mole hunters into Whitehall, Mr Fowler is promising that this review will be conducted with a public debate. He wants, he says, to answer the criticism that decisions were being taken "behind closed doors without people knowing what is going on."

Independent members will be appointed to three separate inquiries into supplementary benefit, benefits for children and young people, and housing benefit, as they have to the pensions inquiry already under way. Evidence will be taken in public sessions. A debate there will most certainly be.

But at the crucial point where conclusions start being drawn on the action to be taken, it is far from certain that ministers will be as open as they are pretending to be. The decisions on what to do to the social security system are still likely to be taken behind doors as closed as those of the Think Tank were meant to be.

A review of the system is desperately needed. It consumes £37 billion, 29 per cent of public spending. Payments are made to more than 20 million beneficiaries. Eighty thousand staff are involved

administering more than 30 benefits, some of which are a nightmare of complexity.

The supplementary benefit rules run to 16,000 paragraphs, 43 pages of index. Neither claimants nor DHSS staff can fairly be expected to understand a system that has grown piecemeal and almost at random since the Beveridge principles were introduced. The system is now riddled with anomalies and inconsistencies and is becoming incomprehensible.

How radical Mr Fowler's examination will be is still far from clear. He said on Monday that "we are not seeking to uproot the Beveridge principles" and that the reviews are not a "cutting exercise." Five minutes later he was saying that they would see "if all the principles are still applicable" and that savings found could be used for new benefit areas or for tax cuts. But it is the way the reviews are to be drawn together that will feed the paranoia of those who suspect the Government's motives.

The programme appears to run like this. Each inquiry will be staffed by six or so civil servants. In addition a centre unit will be set up within the DHSS. Its job will be to coordinate, to keep an eye on the

impact of the reviews on parts of the system which are not being formally included - for example unemployment benefit.

Mr Fowler has come close to promising that he will publish the housing benefit review - there is, he says, "an assumption" it will be published. The pensions inquiry, already under way, is likely to be published in stages, with portable pensions first, the strategic issues later.

But the two key reviews of supplementary benefit under Tony Newton, the junior social security minister, and benefits for children and young people, under Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, may not be published at all.

The second of these in particular will range over a huge area - child benefit, supplementary benefit for 16 to 19-year-olds, family income supplement, single-parent payments, even payments to those in education and projects such as the Youth Training Scheme.

Instead of being published, it is likely they will go into a broad consideration of the whole social security strategy, taking in the tax systems - the way the interaction between tax and benefits creates a "poverty trap" for 160,000 families

- and decisions on whether the savings identified should go to the new areas of benefit or Mrs Thatcher's much sought after tax cuts.

At that point Mr Fowler has so far left it vague, and probably deliberately vague, as to whether the Government will publish a green or a white paper. If he opts for a white paper setting out Government proposals, the logic that led to its decision, the options it considered and rejected - any awkward conclusions that Newton's and Boyson's inquiries produced that do not fit the Government's philosophy will be hidden from view.

The debate on what should happen to the social security system will be confined to accepting or rejecting the Government's proposals.

If Mr Fowler really wants the open debate he claims, he should match his actions to his words. The Newton and Boyson reports should be published. The succeeding paper should be green and not white, and the aim should be to produce as wide a consensus as possible for any radical change to a social system that affects us all from child benefit at birth to the last payment of pension and death grant at our funeral.

The Government, after all, has time. When the inquiries report, Mrs Thatcher will still have three and a half years to go. Another six months of debate about conclusions as opposed to evidence will not prevent reform taking place.

Peter Kellner

Just one Galtieri after another

Two years ago this week Mrs Thatcher sent the naval task force to recapture the Falklands. By any reckoning the Falklands war provided the Prime Minister with her most glorious hour. Yet somehow the anniversary reports from Port Stanley fail to reflect that glory. Instead they symbolize the futility and uncertainty of the Government's second term in office.

Consider: two years ago the Prime Minister established an inner cabinet of experienced, determined politicians to direct a clear mission: to recapture the Falklands. How vividly we recall the sights of that team entering and leaving Downing Street, their every pavement step recorded by the outside broadcast cameras, as they contemplated their next military and diplomatic move.

Remember Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, curling his shoulders at the despatch box and commanding the rapid attention of MPs - now disgraced and in exile with the west? Remember John Nott, the lean, unyielding Defence Secretary - now retired from politics? Remember Willie Whitelaw, the wise old cove who ensured Cabinet unity - now removed to the House of Lords? Remember Cecil Parkinson, the genial party cheerleader - now inching back from the edge of political oblivion?

Of that inner cabinet, only Mrs Thatcher herself remains in place. There is, in a way, justice in this. She alone saw the war as a simple morality play: a fight between goodies and baddies, cops and robbers, cowboys and Indians. Where others worried over the details of Peruvian peace plans, or Common Market diplomacy, or the striking power of Exocet missiles, she retained her primitive faith in the story coming right in the last reel. Come June 1982 and her faith was vindicated, while others' doubts were not.

In all hero-to-the-rescue movies, we leave the cinema assuming either that there is no aftermath, or that the hero and heroine live idyllically ever after. We never see the dirty nappies or the blistering family rows. In this fatal respect, if no other, the Falklands war never could end like an old Ronald Reagan film. Two years on, and the prize for which more than 1,000 Britons and Argentines died looks even more tarnished than before.

Then there is Mrs Thatcher herself. Doubtless she would like her image to have been frozen on that night when she instructed us to "rejoice". But the real world, unlike the movies, keeps rolling. After keeping the "Falklands factor" alive long enough to win last year's general election, Mrs Thatcher's ability to control events has gone. Her opinion poll rating is now lower

than at any time since the Falklands. Today it takes a blind enthusiast not to see how tarnished her own image has become.

When Neil Kinnock became Labour Party leader six months ago, it was widely expected that Mrs Thatcher would eat him alive at Prime Minister's Question Time. It has not happened. Mr Kinnock started a little hesitantly, but today he wins more of these strange duels than he loses.

However, the sheer range of perceived government mistakes, from its handling of the unions over the Government Communication Headquarters to the Prime Minister's own ineptitude in responding to questions about the Oman contract, has created a whole new picture of Mrs Thatcher. Instead of standing erect at the head of a determined political army, she seems to cower in a ditch as the arrows fly. It is not (yet) the quality or precise direction of each arrow that matters, but their number.

It is a posture that any previous prime minister, if he were candid, would find familiar. The point about Mrs Thatcher, however, is that she has chosen to set herself apart from previous prime ministers, as movie heroes set themselves apart from ordinary mortals. It is no accident that in almost every battle the Government now fights, Mrs Thatcher seeks a fresh Galtieri to vanquish. There is nothing dishonest about her approach: it is transparently how she thinks politics ought to be conducted. And as long as she can demonstrate the occasional success, many electors will agree with her.

But there are many issues where there are no plausible Galtieris, however much Mrs Thatcher may wish to conjure them up. The Common Market provides one immediate example where applying the heroes and villains model of human activity is more likely to lead to disaster than success. (A stray thought: suppose the deadline for solving the Common Market's budget problems had occurred when we were seeking diplomatic support against Argentina. What would our negotiating position at Brussels have looked like then?)

Another such issue is the fate of the Falklands themselves. Until the Government radically changes its policy, the cost and futility of the Fortress Falklands approach can only become more absurd and unsettling. As long as Mrs Thatcher searches her B-movie mind for a solution, she will fail. It would indeed be ironic if the very quality that triumphed in the saga of the task force should ruin its sequel. The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

And still they're not convinced

A month ago I wrote an appeal in these pages for the 364 economists who signed the manifesto which appeared in *The Times* in 1981 to come forward to assist with enquiries into the circumstances of a recovery which, they had told us, could not happen.

Three of them, Professors Neild, Hahn and Solow, responded promptly. In addition, Sir Bryan Hopkin wrote to me direct, and last week Sir Bryan, together with Professor Neild and Professors Artis, Godley, Meade and Miller, told Frances Williams the *Times* economics correspondent, not to worry: it was all got up by mirrors.

Or almost all. True, inflation has fallen - to the lowest levels seen for 20 years - when they had said it couldn't, and wouldn't. They had said it couldn't, and wouldn't, because it was trades unions which caused inflation, and the only way to curb it was to recruit clever men like them to decree what the rest of us might pay, and earn, and charge. But this government had dismantled all such mechanisms.

Nevertheless, it has happened. But they find consolation in the thought that it will not last, and they remain sublimely confident that one day they will be called upon to resume the congenial task of "restraining wages". We shall see.

University professors view the achievement of low inflation with some detachment. Their concern is with economic performance. And here their judgment remains severe. The recovery is a "mirage" - and due to the Government's closest conversion to their way of thinking.

It is not easy for lesser mortals to grasp how it can be simultaneously an illusion and a tribute to their wisdom. So let us take the two propositions *seriatim*. First, the closest conversion. According to Professor Artis, "the Government took more notice of the exchange rate". Well, up to a point, Lord Copper. It is true that since 1981 successive budget speeches have identified the exchange rate as one of the indicators of relative monetary stringency or laxity; and in practice the attitude of the authorities towards interest rates has been a good deal more relaxed when the exchange rate has been falling than when it has been rising.

Nevertheless I think the professors ought to tell us why, over the past three years, the monthly reserves figures have shown such modest evidence of exchange rate intervention if they want us to believe that ministers have bowed to their advice to manipulate the parity (as opposed to acquiescing in fluctuating market judgments of the value of the North Sea oil).

Others of our mentors attribute the "levelling-out in activity" (at 3

per cent per annum) in large part to "the Government relaxation of controls on consumer credit" (Professor Neild). So far as I am aware there have been two specific instances of such relaxation: the raising of the mortgage interest relief ceiling from 25 per cent to 30 per cent a year ago and the elimination of hire purchase controls in the autumn of 1982.

But since the professors believe that people's behaviour conforms to rules and not to market signals they would be a good deal more sanguine than I about the abolition of mortgage finance to the purpose for which it is designed. So in practice we are talking about the abolition of hp controls.

In retrospect it is evident that this move did have an impact on consumer credit purchases which was both larger and more far-reaching than we foresaw at the time. Even so, the figures are not all that remarkable. In the 12 months before the abolition of hp controls new hp business grew by £8.3 billion. In the ensuing 12 months it grew by £9.9 billion, or about 19 per cent. Which hardly seems quite enough to explain away "in large part" the current remarkable recovery in the profitability of the corporate sector or the current gdp growth rate of 3 per cent a year.

The nub of the argument, however, is that the recovery has been got up by the press and smart-talking ministers. Professor Miller states flatly that it has never happened. Sir Bryan Hopkin and Professor Meade find it less easy to dismiss the evidence before them. But they would presumably not quarrel with Professor Miller's assertion that "the level of gross domestic product remains far below its pre-recession trend line".

We all pick figures that suit our book. Sir Bryan Hopkin has invited me to compare the rate of growth since the lowest point of the recession, three years ago, with the halcyon days of Keynesian demand management from 1947 to 1973. What was remotely "monetary" about the management of the economy between 1973 and 1976 escapes me: as the annual rate of growth then declined to less than 1 per cent a year it does not help the picture. But Professor Miller must have experienced a longer recession than the rest of us to get back to a "trend-line" far above our current rate of growth.

Where the Government and its critics would be at one, of course, is in conceding the woeful absence of recovery employment. Sadly, even here diagnosis and cures diverge. The Government lays the blame - domestically at least - on the inflexibility of labour markets. The professors would stop people pricing themselves out of the market by controlling wages. They are men after Mr Scargill's heart.

Bernard Levin writes an epitaph to the NT's 'Jean Seberg'

The iceberg that snowballed

Now that the run of *Jean Seberg* (more of a saunter, really) at the National Theatre has ended - the final performance was last night - it is, I think, worth trying to see what lessons can be drawn from a catastrophe that differs from the one which befell the Titanic not in its scale but in the fact that the tragic ship met its doom in the middle of a dark night, whereas the NT sailed lickety-split to its rendezvous with destiny in broad daylight and with its eyes wide open; if the Titanic's iceberg had been illuminated from end to end with neon signs reading "Danger - Do Not Collide With This Object" I imagine that the court of inquiry would have had a few sharp words to say about the quality of foresight on the ship's bridge.

First, let us say for the NT what can be said. That its repertoire should include all kinds of theatre, old and new, as well as work from all countries which have something to offer it, seems to me too obviously right to be worth discussing. And the modern musical comedy, that wholly indigenous American art-form, has for more than half a century been a fountain of theatrical vigour that still shows no sign of drying up; the fact that it has almost invariably had to be imported fully-grown is curious but in the end irrelevant: has the English pantomime ever put down roots elsewhere?

It was therefore perfectly proper for Sir Peter Hall to put on *Gypsy* and *Dolls* (though I shall never cease to mourn the first, abandoned attempt to stage it there with Olivier playing Nathan Detroit), which is probably the greatest of all American musicals, and came up as fresh as the day it was written. (It was hugely popular with the public - ironically, the NT are bringing it back to fill some of the cancelled performances of *Jean Seberg* - which gave the implacably wooden-headed another excuse to attack Sir Peter; this time it was for staging something people wanted to see. Well, it made a change from the implacables' normal complaint that he was putting on plays that people did not want to see.)

Anyone who knew anything about Hall and his methods must have guessed as soon it was clear that *Gypsy* and *Dolls* was a very palpable hit that he would use it as a stepping-stone to a production of a new musical, preferably purpose-built. Again, the intention was not only justified but admirable, as was the decision to stage an American product rather than a British one, though that gave the implacables yet another cause for complaint. (Most British musicals, which threatened my hair with silver in the days when I was a theatre critic, fall broadly into two groups. One variety came embalmed in advance; these lurched on to the stage, topple slowly over and lie in a heap breathing stertorously for the next two and a

half hours. The others arrive apparently shot full of amphetamines: these are characterized by choreography in which the spine is kept perfectly straight while the bottom is stuck out and wagged rapidly from side to side. Both varieties are always dreadful.)

So far, nothing but commendation was in order. I raised an eyebrow when I learned the subject of the musical, and two more when I discovered that the point of it was that the eponymous heroine had been a victim of the evils of American capitalist society (my dear, they eat babies - no, I assure you, I heard from John Pilger destroyed because she wanted to help those *poor* Black Panthers (my dear, they couldn't even afford to buy guns).

This did not seem to me to be the stuff of which enjoyable musicals are made, but I have seen many a success made of theoretically unpromising material, and I held my peace. For that matter, I held my peace, at least in print, after I saw it, and even now I say only that until the afternoon I spent at *Jean Seberg* I had never wavered from my conviction that the worst and most traumatic single episode of my life was being badly bitten by a dog at the age of seven, when I was convinced, covered in blood as I was, that I was going to die, whereas after a visit to *Jean Seberg* I realized that that was only the second worst thing that had ever happened to me, and regretted that I could not apologize to the dog.

What went wrong? That question must be answered in two senses: what was so bad in the work, and why did nobody at the NT blow the whistle in time?

The answer to the first question only deepens the mystery of the second. It is that although Marvin Hamlisch's music was pleasant enough, the lyrics and the play (by, respectively, Christopher Adler and Julian Barry) were not just appalling - trite, witless, tired, without punch or bite - they were suffused from end to end with the fatal quality of the *British* musical: amateurishness. The chief characteristic of the home-made product is that if a couplet in a lyric does not scan, or rhymes imperfectly or a scene in the "book" falls flat, those concerned don't mind; the chief characteristic of the American version is that verses or scenes suffering from those imperfections are simply thrown out immediately, and the writer told to go away and not come back until he has got it right. There was a terrible British musical a few years ago called *Fire Angel*, two lines of which were intended to demonstrate that it was no good, when "the local rabbi" was rhymed with "won't let that by". Imagine the curdling of my blood when, at the National Theatre, the ghost of *Fire Angel* took the stage, as the lyricist of *Jean Seberg* rhymed "bigot" with "dig it".



Kelly Hunter as the younger Seberg, Elizabeth Connell as the older: presiding over a frightful stageful of junk

With work as bad as the words of *Jean Seberg* Adler and Barry should never have been allowed into the country, never mind the National Theatre. But what made their slack, empty lines worse was the way they handled the story itself. Clearly, though she was weak and foolish, Jean Seberg was also the victim of real injustice. But this theme is put forward and developed with all the subtlety, skill and sense of a cartoon in *Krokodil*, and a particularly ill-drawn one at that. The writers appear to have no idea of how to make a point so that the audience is drawn on to their side, how to hold the balance fairly and thus ensure that when one scale goes down it can be seen to do so because it is truly heavier, how to portray a villain in a manner that shows at any rate a glimmer of understanding of what moves him to his villainy (let alone of understanding that this particular villain - J. Edgar Hoover - did much good as well as wrong). Instead, they write as though convinced that their potential audiences are as shallow, humourless and one-eyed as the script suggests they are themselves; *Jean Seberg* should not have been shovelled on to the stage of the National Theatre, but sprayed on a wall from an aerosol-can and signed "The Skinheads".

There remains the second question: why didn't the dog bark? Peter Hall is not just one of the best of living theatrical directors and an administrator of outstanding skill: he is perhaps our most complete and accomplished *homme du théâtre*. Why couldn't he see the iceberg, lit up as it was from stem to stern and blowing its hoover fit to bust?

I am not privy to the backstage gossip of the National Theatre, and

can hazard a guess, based only on the logic of the story (which, after all, rules out the otherwise inescapable explanation - that Hall had slid off his trolley at last).

The code-word is "snowball". Once something as big, multifaceted and complex as a musical has moved even a few inches down the production mountain, the weight of it begins to increase by geometrical progression, and in no time at all the snowball - soon to become an avalanche - is unstoppable. I don't mean unstoppable only in terms of reaching the point of no return (though you can imagine the whale of a time the implacables would have had if so expensive a show had been cancelled before opening; even more important is that it must have become psychologically unstoppable. I believe that once the landslide had begun nobody was capable of seeing it straight; they must have fairly hypnotized themselves into the genuine belief that one of the most frightful stagefuls of junk ever seen in London was in fact a perfectly good show.

What now? Well, no permanent harm has been done. The next new musical to be mounted by the National Theatre will be on a small scale (it is to be staged in the Cottesloe) and will thus challenge no ominous comparisons. The failure of *Jean Seberg* leaves Hall with a very substantial artistic credit balance, and I know of nothing in the NT's Articles of Association that binds the management never to put on a flop. The implacables have a given tongue, of course, but my advice to them is to go and see *Gypsy* and *Dolls*; they may be no more sensible afterwards, but at least they will feel better.

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Brazil: softly softly back to barracks

It is exactly 20 years since the military took power in Brazil, but this time there have been no celebrations and no proud recital of achievements, just the impression that, if the soldiers have not left power yet, they are in a great hurry to do so.

They are trying to prevent control of the succession issue slipping from their hands, so that they can guarantee that the successor to General Figueiredo, who stands before the end of the month, proposing direct elections for the next president but one, probably in 1990, and sweetening the pill with other concessions, such as the return of some lost privileges to Congress and permitting direct election of city mayors and other appointments now made by the central government.

It remains to be seen whether these concessions will be sufficient to satisfy the public which, tired of suffering the harsh consequences of economic difficulties, wants to see the back of this government as soon as possible.

The three presidential candidates

motion has not yet reached the needed two-thirds majority, but it is getting near it.

Even if the motion is rejected by a small margin, the Government could be so demoralized by the result that it would prove difficult to continue to govern effectively, to select the successor to President Figueiredo in the planned way - by electoral college - or for his successor to take over smoothly.

The Government plans to present its own amendment to Congress before the end of the month, proposing direct elections for the next president but one, probably in 1990, and sweetening the pill with other concessions, such as the return of some lost privileges to Congress and permitting direct election of city mayors and other appointments now made by the central government.

It remains to be seen whether these concessions will be sufficient to satisfy the public which, tired of suffering the harsh consequences of economic difficulties, wants to see the back of this government as soon as possible.

continue their different campaigns. The Governments favoured candidate, the Home Affairs Minister, Senator Mario Andreazza, still claims a slight lead in the number of votes he will be able to muster in the electoral college. But he must step down from his ministerial post in September and it is thought much of his support will evaporate once he no longer has vast sums at his disposal.

The ex-governor of São Paulo state, Senator Paulo Maluf, also claims to have a majority and seems more likely to last the course, with the adhesion of important supporters, including Brazil's previous Ambassador to London, Senator Roberto Campos.

The third candidate, Vice-President Aureliano Chaves, is managing to gain popular support because of his enthusiasm for direct elections. However, by no means every opposition politician in Brasilia wants the rules to be changed. This would lead to an unpredictable situation and the most likely beneficiary would be the governor of Rio de Janeiro state, Senator Leonel Brizola, despite the

fact that his popularity has slumped in his own state.

Direct elections would open the possibility of a president, if not next time round then the time after that.

The question is whether the powerful wave of public opinion, strengthened by the very poor economic situation and something like anarchy in some big cities, is so strong that it will not fade unless real concessions are made.

The Government is hoping that if slight concessions are made, the critical situation will die down, as so often the case in the past. If not able to impose its own candidate, the palace group will at least be able to live with Senator Maluf who has stated clearly that there will be no unearthing of skeletons from the past. On the other hand, Vice-President Chaves, a part of whose popularity comes from making specious but powerful comparisons of Brazil's situation with that of Argentina, is worrying the military.

Patrick Knight

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MONUMENTAL ISSUES

One of Government's besetting sins is an inability to co-ordinate the activities of its right and left hands. Thus the series of inquiries announced by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, into different aspects of the social security system would at first glance seem the worst possible way of tackling so complex and interwoven an area of government policy.

It is becoming clear, however, that the critical decisions will be taken by Mr Fowler's central co-ordinating unit, which will draw on the work of the separate groups investigating pensions, housing benefits, supplementary benefits and those paid for children and young people. This unit will range widely in its attempt to construct "a new Beveridge". In particular, its job must be to consider the basic division of benefits between those which are automatic for certain groups of people (like child benefit); those which are means-tested (like supplementary benefit) and those which are based on the contributory system of national insurance. It must also consider the interaction of the benefits system with income tax - a prime cause of what has come to be known as "the poverty trap".

While the new groups on the circumference of this major inquiry will take evidence in public, the central unit will work within government. This may not be a defect: its main job will be to collate and digest, and to coordinate with the Treasury, vitally involved in questions of tax changes. Indeed, it is rather a welcome change to find government making use of the existing Civil Service, which is after all paid to do the work, rather than farm the job of informing policy out to yet another royal com-

mission. And Mr Fowler's retirement inquiry has proved the complementary usefulness of public hearings.

But there are other ways in which the Government, though not necessarily Mr Fowler himself, has laid itself open to criticism. His central unit, and finally ministers, will produce proposals which must be open to consideration and review. This will not be an overnight affair: the issues involved are truly monumental.

Should we, for example, retain a national insurance system at all, or should all benefits be financed out of income tax? The national insurance system is something of a farce: the contributory basis is rudimentary, and the scheme is not "funded" - each year's benefits are paid for out of each year's contributions. Moreover, the existence of separate national insurance contributions distorts the progression of income tax: it has a floor and ceiling which fit ill with income tax thresholds and rates. As contributions have risen, and are expected to rise further, this distortion has become more and more offensive.

Any reform of the national insurance system, however, would have far-reaching implications for the earnings-related pension scheme, introduced only in 1978 and still several decades from maturity. And pensions provide a cautionary tale for the Government. The new pension scheme was the outcome of several parliaments of party political argument, ending in a kind of exhausted bipartisan agreement. A comprehensive review of the social security system will be even more in need of the foundation of national consensus. Maybe, in today's

politics, inter-party agreement across the floor of the House of Commons is too much to hope for. But Mr Fowler needs time to test and garner public support for change.

Yet time has been dangerously wasted by this Government. It is nearly a year since the general election. Mr Fowler is now determined to press on fast, so as not to lose the momentum of reform; he plans outline proposals by next spring and knows that if things fall much behind that timetable he has no hope of legislative action before the next election. The timetable would look more realistic if the Government had launched its inquiry last summer.

For this the Prime Minister is probably more to blame than Mr Fowler. The Social Services Secretary knows only too well, the dangers of drifting on without clear priorities in public spending; he has suffered more than many from pedantic Treasury book-keeping. Not that the need to balance the books will disappear with the announcement of these inquiries; the most that can be hoped for is that decisions on saving and spending public money will be better informed.

But the constraints on public spending provide another reason for deploring the Government's delay. The last attempt at major reform was in the early 1970s, when reconstruction of the tax and benefit system was sweetened by a considerable injection of public cash. Smoothing out the anomalies in the system of tax and benefits without causing hardship is not easy. If money is tight, the more time and patience, are needed to arrive at answers that are both just and seen to be just.

NO FREE LUNCH FOR FARMERS

The European Community's monstrous over-production of milk could not be rectified without hurting the dairy farmers, whose prosperity has been founded on expansion of herds and yields. The corrective measure finally agreed at Brussels at the week end - national quotas enforced by a penal tax on excess production - immediately worsens the financial outlook for all dairymen, though each remains in ignorance of the precise effects on him until the detailed application of the new policy has been settled. The average cut in production of just under 7 per cent may be no worse than what a late spring and dry summer will do. But with the weather there is always the chance of a better season next year: with the CAP there is now no relief in the outlook. Anyway there is no use inveighing against the weather. It may be no use inveighing against Mr Jopling either, but it gives more relief to the feelings.

He had a tough time when he answered questions in the House on Monday. The complaints were fuelled by resentment. Resentment against the Irish who alone in the Community will be permitted to expand milk production this year. That is because the Irish won acceptance for their argument that dairying is uniquely important to the Irish economy, constituting a "vital national interest" under the conventions of the Community. (The United Kingdom

quite rightly pins that label not on its dairy sector but on the formula for determining its annual contribution to the Community budget.) But the Irish did not win a bankable assurance of further permitted expansion after this year. Ireland's farmers like others will have to adapt to a diminishing prospect for milk; they are just being given more time, as is appropriate to their greater collective dependence on it.

Resentment too that Britain is required to cut back its milk production harder than for instance France although Britain is not, while France is, self-sufficient in milk and its products. Resentment that the price changes in this review taken together, expressed in national currencies, are even less favourable to British farmers than to most of the others in the Ten. Resentment that once again cereal growers (who see a one per cent cut in the support price) are relatively unscathed.

Even while seeking to show his farming friends that what he came back with from Brussels was not as bad as all that, Mr Jopling found he was vulnerable also from the rear. Where, he was asked, was that fundamental reform of the CAP which his Government had gone into the negotiations to get. The commitment to hold the rate of growth of farm expenditure below the rate of growth of the Community's financial resources was neither precise nor strong; and

did not this great price and production cutting effort, boiled down to an actual rise of expenditure of 6 per cent; and would not milk, for all the pain of this adjustment, still be 12 million tonnes (nearly 15 per cent of production) in unsalable surplus? Mr Jopling: "I do not believe that the agreement falls far below the measures needed for a fundamental reform. It is a vital first step..."

As a first step it does retard the runaway rate of exhaustion of Community funds, and it makes two innovations: agriculture ministers have summoned up the courage to cut support prices in cash amounts and not just post-inflation terms, and a production ceiling has been placed on a major commodity in chronic surplus. Further steps will have to follow this one if the public finances and production levels of European agriculture are to be rationalized. But if the agriculture agreement leads on to a budget agreement including an enlargement of the Community's sources of revenue, the pressure to resist the politically powerful farming interest will be eased. The need to do so however will be no less. After steelworkers and miners farmers have now to be brought to acknowledge that there is no profitable future in the production of unsalable goods at administered prices. Pharaoh's dream recurs. The well favoured, fattened king have had their turn; the lean years are upon them.

ALFONSIN'S 100 DAYS

The close of Dr Alfonsín's first 100 days has coincided with the second anniversary of the invasion of the Falklands. The occasion was marked by the inauguration of a war memorial at Luján, where the President reaffirmed Argentina's claims, and a less dignified demonstration in Buenos Aires, which damaged the clock tower that used to be called the Torre de los Ingleses. At the same time the government achieved last-minute assistance on its debt problems, postponing their definition a little longer. What has restored democratic government achieved so far, in the face of so many grave problems, all connected?

Dr Alfonsín has dealt firmly with the military hierarchy, and his measures have met with a high level of agreement. The trial of accused officers by military courts, but with civilian assessment and the possibility of appeal to civil courts, has the merit of his insistent constitutionalism. The government has not flinched at exhuming the past, as was plain to see in December and January. It has altered for the better the tone of

national debate: so far there is less intransigence, fewer chanted slogans. In international relations Argentina is close to an agreement with Chile on the Beagle Channel, and in her latest debt negotiation has received the combined support of Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and the United States.

There have also been failures. The government's legislation to democratise and re-structure the trade unions was halted in the Senate by the Peronists and their allies. No grave confrontation has yet occurred, but strikes have been frequent. This is natural enough in a democracy in Argentina's circumstances, and the exchanges have been a genuine dialogue. More serious is the "missing" economic plan.

The Radicals argue that they were unable to investigate the full seriousness of the crisis, before taking office, and that no negotiator shows more of his hand than is convenient. Their political circumstances - a demanding electorate, the Peronists in opposition, a union movement feeling for power again - mean that they must be

seen to fight for the most favourable terms, and to drive the hardest bargain they can with the banks who lent to their predecessors.

There still has to be a bargain, and if it is going to be difficult for the banks it is going to be difficult for Dr Alfonsín too. Despite talk of self-sufficiency in oil and in food, a real breakdown in debt negotiation would produce enough economic chaos in Argentina even to instal another military government. It would also cost the country the international respectability and the regional support that Dr Alfonsín has set out to regain. He will argue about obligations, but he will not repudiate them.

Dr Alfonsín's priority must now be to produce a coherent plan for his country's immediate economic future, an end that Argentines naturally place first and one that will explore to the full their present capacity for compromise. Yesterday's ceremony and demonstration remind us of other long-term Argentine aims. At least the demonstration was not government-inspired.

Calling Telecom to account

From Sir Ian Morrow
Sir, British Telecom has now restated its profit for the year to March 1983, showing an increase from £365m to £1,030m. The first figure is used as the basis for price increases to consumers, the second, for setting the price for investors. Both of course are certified as "true and fair".

With this example will other nationalised industries, e.g. British Gas, please restate their profits on a historical basis?

Perhaps the Treasury could be persuaded that private contractors to the Government should use inflation accounting figures for determining their costs on non-competitive bids.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MORROW,
23 Chester Terrace,
Rogent's Park, NW1,
April 2.

Choice of bishops

From the Chaplain of Haileybury
Sir, Sir Clifford Longley correct in assuming (feature, March 28) that clergy decline bishoprics merely because they hope for something better, or their wives dissent?

Given the unsatisfactory rôle the Church of England assigns to its bishops, I think it more likely, and charitable, to conclude that some men are justified in believing that they can better serve God and the Church (alas, the claims of the two do not always coincide) by remaining in their present posts.

Also, before the Church can exert pressure on a man to accept in the way Mr Longley suggests, it has to be very sure of the correctness and wisdom of its choice. Can we be so certain? Perhaps not all who have been less than successful as bishops were second, third or fourth choices.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LEWIS,
Haileybury,
Hertford,
March 29.

Accommodation costs

From Mr H. Michael White
Sir, I should like to draw your readers' attention to the fact that the DHSS in the London area are more and more inclined to put homeless people into bed and breakfast accommodation at very high cost.

It appears that this is done because it is easier than finding hostels for the applicants. The result is that this charity and many other women's hostels are not being fully used.

The average charge on the DHSS for a bed in one of the women's hostels is around £40 a week, whereas the cheapest bed and breakfast accommodation costs many times this figure.

I suggest that the £1m a year asked for by the enterprise allowance scheme, reported in your issue of March 29, could easily be saved by the DHSS if it stopped this extravagant practice except in cases of extreme necessity, for which it was originally designed.

The saving on the difference would surely be much better spent on encouraging new enterprise.

Yours faithfully,
H. MICHAEL WHITE,
Chairman of the Council,
The House of St Barnabas-in-Soho,
(The House of Charity for Distressed Persons in London),
1 Greek Street,
Soho, W1,
March 29.

Seeing is believing

From Mr Gordon Graham
Sir, Roderick Graddidge, in his article about "the end of the dreams of modern architecture" (March 30), makes the statement that all good architecture should "within a few years fit completely within the cityscape and become unnoticed".

I confess that I never fail to rejoice in the wonderful and strikingly noticeable attributes of St Paul's, the Palace of Westminster, the Piazza San Marco, the Scamgar building, Manchester Town Hall, Ronchamp, the Milan Galleria, Johnson's Wax, Durham Cathedral, the Parthenon, my own club, etc. etc. Aren't any of these noticeable masterpieces good architecture by anyone's definition?

Should I really only notice buildings of the past few years? Personally I don't care for any of Graddidge's examples - not that that invalidates them - but I do claim to be a member of the "people" about whom he waxes so authoritatively.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON GRAHAM,
The Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
March 30.

Poland and the West

From Mr Brian Thomas
Sir, Professor Robin Kempball's indignation at the plight of the Polish people seems, on the evidence of his letter of March 13, to have upset his historical judgment. At no time did the Soviet Union make the commitment to "free and unfettered elections" which he described, neither at Yalta nor anywhere else.

By quoting only part of the key sentence of the Yalta Joint Communiqué on Poland (and by omitting its subject altogether) Professor Kempball fails to reveal that it was the future "Polish Provisional Government of National Unity", not the Soviet Union, which was "pledged to the holding of free and unfettered elections". The only role allotted to "M. Molotov, Mr. Harriman and Sir A. Clark Kerr" was that of

New principle in Arts Council policy

From Lord Cudlipp
Sir, The new mandarins of the Arts Council are swiftly redressing the imbalance in the largesse dispensed from 105 Piccadilly to London and the regions: a 5 per cent switch of £6m is a promising overture. They have recognised at last that the querulous quango they now administer is the Arts Council of Great Britain, but another injustice needs the attention of Sir William Rees-Mogg and Mr Luke Rimmer before their revolutionary fervour subsides or is exhausted.

A new principle, so far unchallenged, has edged its way into Arts Council policy. The desirability of joint funding with equal or proportionate contributions from county, borough or district councils is thoroughly wholesome, but what was regarded as desirable five years ago is now stipulated as a condition of council aid.

Sir Roy Shaw, Mr Rimmer's predecessor, had the new policy in his 1980/81 report: "The council is chary of funding an activity in a local authority area for which the local authority shows little concern."

It follows that if the authority shows no concern at all, the Arts Council and its regional associations may do likewise, and there can no longer be doubt about the reality of this threat: no local aid, no national grant.

The citizens of the boorish Philistias (West Sussex is a notorious example) will remain liable to pay their national "culture tax" of 4p per week but may never hear a professional belch from a French horn in return or witness a touring drama company.

The Arts Council's royal charter, 1967, defines two of its objects as to "develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts; to increase the accessibility of the arts to the public throughout Great Britain. There is not a single word stipulating that accessibility should be increased or available only in areas where the handout from taxes is bolstered by a handout from the rates.

An Arts Council pamphlet, circa 1980, entitled *What It Does*, expresses the noble intention of "increasing the accessibility and knowledge of the arts everywhere."

Everywhere? But what if the local authorities, who are normally expected to contribute, abnormally won't? Is the ACGB assuming powers to designate no-go areas, or cultural ghettos, where the (professional) performing arts will become extinct?

The solution to Sir William's quandary lies in the recommendation of the all-party select committee that local authorities should be given a statutory responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SYLVESTER,
35 Watpole Street, SW3,
April 2.

Third World deaths

From Professor Gordon T. Stewart
Sir, The assertion by Caroline Moorehead in your centre page on March 26 that the majority, or even a substantial minority, of infant deaths in the Third World or anywhere else can be prevented by immunization is a dangerous oversimplification of a complex and variable problem.

It is surely obvious by now that the main threats to life, by far, are malnutrition, gastro-enteritis and dehydration, each aggravating the other and none specifically preventable by immunization.

The Big Six are not so big everywhere, bad as they are in some places, and immunization is not always as effective as is claimed, for instance, against tuberculosis in India and against whooping cough in some other countries.

There are also very definite risks of severe and sometimes life-threatening adverse reactions if vaccines are administered indiscriminately in mass inoculations and it is not always possible in developing countries to take adequate precautions to ensure safety in this respect.

There was a time, not so very long ago, that the infant mortality rates quoted by Ms Moorehead and Unicef were commonplace in developing Western or Northern countries, including our own. The

being exempt from VAT) this is effectively a retrospective tax adding some 7 per cent to the cost of a contract placed a year and a month before the date of its announcement. It is to be hoped that the Finance Act will recognise this and at least provide a cut-off line for retrospective liability if not totally abolish its application to contracts placed before the Budget date.

Yours truly,
VERNON W. McELROY,
Director of Estate Management,
University of Cambridge,
Estate Management and Building Service,
74 Trumpington Street,
Cambridge,
March 28.

VAT on building

From Mr Vernon W. McElroy
Sir, Mr Wickenden (March 28) has put his finger on a most iniquitous aspect of the Budget VAT proposals.

This university entered into a building contract for the extension of an existing building in February, 1983, with completion expected by December, 1984. By June 1, 1984, there will still be about £800,000 to be spent on the work and this is likely to attract VAT of some £120,000.

For an institution which is unable to pass this surcharge to its consumers and which cannot reclaim VAT (educational supplies

bility to ensure that all sections and ages of the community shall have access to the arts.

In the meantime it is surely the moral responsibility of the Arts Council under its royal charter to "increase the accessibility of the arts to the public throughout Great Britain" - especially in, and not with the exception of, the no-go areas. Or is it the intention of the Arts Council to concede total victory to the bone-headed civic philistines whose simple philosophy is that there are "no votes in the arts"?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CUDLIPI,
The Denes,
Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne,
Chichester, Sussex,
March 31.

From Dr Selby Whittingham
Sir, The modest switch from London to the provinces in financial support for the arts has been made by the Arts Council but not paralleled in the main art gallery world. In the same week that a request for money from Manchester was turned down the National Gallery bought another expensive masterpiece.

Surely the huge purchase grants of the over-stocked London galleries set against the small ones for provincial galleries are much less defensible than the sums given to the Hayward Gallery or Royal Court Theatre and other such London institutions needing money just to exist? Why do nearly all the best pictures purchased by the nation still have to go to London?

Yours faithfully,
SELBY WHITTINGHAM,
153 Cromwell Road, SW5,
April 1.

From Mr David Sylvester
Sir, Mr Levin (feature, March 31) tells us emphatically that everybody got it wrong about the things the Arts Council was proposing to do. The only proof he offers is that in the end the council didn't do them.

The implications are that discussions within the council of the possible options ended long before the day of decisions on March 28 and that those decisions were totally unaffected by expressions of anxiety from the world outside.

In my days as a member the council's deliberations on important issues were both prolonged and responsive to public opinion. It seems improbable that all that has utterly changed. In other words, maybe those letters in your columns mattered.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SYLVESTER,
35 Watpole Street, SW3,
April 2.

Big Six were also much more common then than now. Even so, they never accounted for the majority of infant deaths and, as causes of death, they fell to very low levels before there were any vaccines or other specific medical measures available.

If the lesson of history as well as of epidemiology is to be read rightly, it is that the control of infant mortality depends now as always on the care of children generally by improvements in personal hygiene, water availability and safety, breastfeeding where practicable, education of parents and older children, with provision of medical or nursing care when and precisely where the need arises.

Immunization is a useful adjunct to all this, but it is a serious mistake to pre-empt funds and effort on the assumption that it will deal with the greater part of the continuing problem in the Third World.

It is demonstrably true that children die there with measles, but they die mainly because they are malnourished or otherwise neglected; the others mainly survive, as they do in developed countries almost always.

Yours etc,
GORDON T. STEWART,
Department of Community Medicine,
University of Glasgow,
Ruchill Hospital,
Glasgow.

Union in precisely the way Professor Kempball suggests; but this was rejected by Roosevelt on February 10, 1945, and formed no part either of the Declaration or of the Joint Communiqué.

Thus what Yalta did was to make Polish democracy a Soviet option rather than a Soviet commitment. This was clearly deliberate, for if free elections had been held they would presumably have produced a government hostile to communism; and, as Secretary of State Burnes declared on October 31, 1945, "we can appreciate the determination of the people of the Soviet Union that never again will they tolerate the pursuit of policies in these countries deliberately directed against the Soviet Union's security and way of life".

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN THOMAS,
The Polytechnic of North London,
Holloway, N7,
March 14.

Soviet curb on welfare gifts

From Lord Cogan and others
Sir, We wish to draw attention, through the courtesy of your columns, to a new clause of Soviet law which came into force on February 1. Its likely effect seems to be to make it difficult, if not impossible, for Soviet citizens to receive material gifts from Western organisations concerned for their welfare.

The clause is a new third part to article 70 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR (Russian Republic), which deals with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", and states that

Actions carried out with the use of money or other material goods received from foreign organisations or persons acting in the interests of such organisations are punishable by deprivation of freedom for up to 10 years, with or without a subsequent five years [internal exile].

We are deeply concerned lest the new law should increase the already considerable material hardship endured by some members of the Soviet population. Most at risk are the families of prisoners sentenced for the public expression of their political and/or religious convictions.

It is not widely known that these families receive no social security or welfare benefits from the Soviet government. They must depend for their livelihood upon the generosity of families and friends. Others who may be affected include, most notably, the so-called "refuseniks" persons who have applied to emigrate from the USSR, after which they have almost automatically lost their jobs.

Now depends upon the way the new law is to be interpreted. It will be clear from its wording that it does not appear to be an offence for a Soviet citizen to receive a gift from abroad for personal or family use. An offence would occur only if such a gift could be shown to have been used for "anti-Soviet actions". However, the arbitrary and inconsistent manner in which article 70 has been interpreted by Soviet courts in recent years does not augur well.

Receipt of a gift from abroad might well be used as the basis for a charge of intent to engage in "anti-Soviet actions".

A change in the leadership of any country is always a time when new initiatives may be taken, new relationships forged, and new hopes created. We would wish to endorse all the cautiously optimistic statements concerning hopes for a new way forward which have been made recently by major international leaders of both East and West. But we would point out to the new Soviet leadership that it is more difficult for us to do so now than it was before the new clause 3 of article 70 came into force.

Yours sincerely,
COGGAN,
JOHN BATH & WELLS,
HUGO GRVYN,
DAVID LIVERPOOL,
LESSLIE NEWBIGIN,
PATRICK OXON,
JOHN D. RAYNER,
D. S. RUSSELL,
JOHN SARUM,
MICHAEL WOOLWICH,
DAVID WORLOCK,
THOMAS J. WINNING,
As from: House of Lords,
March 16.

Poem in the 'TLS'

From the Editor of The Times Literary Supplement

Sir, It is good to see Roger Scruton denouncing all forms of racial hatred, but he is wrong to think (feature, April 3) Peter Reading's poem "Cub", published recently in the TLS, is antisemitic. If it were, we would not have accepted it.

Like much of Mr Reading's work, "Cub" is a dramatic monologue. The genre often poses problems of interpretation, of a kind Dr Scruton (who is, among other things, a distinguished aesthetician and literary critic) must be aware of.

The title, which he does not mention, is applicable not only to the child who is described as shooting, and then being shot by, Israeli soldiers in the Lebanese war, but to the poem's narrator, a cub reporter working for Reuters.

That much understood, what follows clearly implies a critical (as well as imaginatively sympathetic) comment on the reporter's coarse but intense response to this horrifying incident: a comment, too, on the psychological effects of repeated exposure to such incidents. The phrase "Old Testament shiftness" is used by the reporter of both sides, not just the Israelis.

"Cub" is a complex and powerful poem (not, pace Roger Scruton, a piece of prose: it is written in elegiac couplets, alternating hexameters and pentameters) about a terrible war. I am glad we published it. I am sorry, though, for any offence it has caused to those who, with Dr Scruton's help, have misunderstood it.

Yours,
JEREMY TREGLOWN, Editor
The Times Literary Supplement,
Priory House,
St John's Lane, EC1.

Cooling-off time

From the Headmaster of Chigwell School

Sir, Food wrapped in a damp cloth would certainly drop below room temperature (letter, March 23). So would a soggy sandwich.

Yours truly,
B. J. WILSON, Headmaster,
Chigwell School,
Chigwell,
Essex,
March 28.

THE ARTS

The malevolent image of Merrick in *The Jewel in the Crown* has made Tim Pigott-Smith (right) famous, but *Benefactors*, which opens at the Vaudeville tonight, should soften it somewhat: interview by Peter Lewis

The talent for turning nasty

As Ronald Merrick's unlamented ashes are laid to rest on television, Tim Pigott-Smith, who conjured up his brooding malevolence so memorably on the screen, is being reborn in a very different character on stage in Michael Frayn's new play, *Benefactors*, which opens at the Vaudeville tonight. He is playing one of Frayn's fastidious Cambridge men, a classics scholar who turns nasty when he gets embroiled in an architectural feud with an old college crony, who builds tower blocks for the local authority.

"A very different type from our Ronnie," says Pigott-Smith. "But, if there is a hard character in this play, he is it." A character, it must be added, to whom Pigott-Smith's sardonic lip-curl and gift for devastating dead-pan sarcasm are particularly appropriate. But this is a delicate role. Frayn's characterization stops short of deep-dyed villainy — especially in a four-handed set of marital manoeuvres in which, as Pigott-Smith puts it, "we are like four climbers roped together on a mountain — if one slips, we all tumble".

The following for *The Jewel in the Crown* has made him, at 37, an instantly recognizable actor with greatly expanded prospects. It has also made him an automatic candidate for future roles as a "mean bastard", which is not by any means what he intends to concentrate on.

His upbringing almost programmed him for an acting career. He grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon, where his father edited the newspaper, and went to Shakespeare's grammar school. He gravitated naturally to the Memorial Theatre, then in its renaissance under Peter Hall, and asked to work for a spell in the paint shop. "What I especially liked was to work on the paint frame, from which

you could look down to the stage and watch rehearsals."

The painting suffered but he was hooked. A drama course at Bristol University and the Old Vic Theatre School followed. He was one of the six students of his year invited to join the Bristol Old Vic company, together with Jeremy Irons and Simon Cadell. Touring with *Prospect*, he was introduced to major roles in Shakespeare, including playing Laertes to Ian McKellen's Hamlet, which reached the West End. His RSC years then began. They culminated in going on as Coriolanus for Nicol Williamson, but the commercial success of the time was *Sherlock Holmes*, in which he was cast as an unusually young Doctor Watson. But, when the New York run finished, he returned to find that the RSC no longer required him.

"I had to make another career, in rep and on television, but I was deprived of my ambition, which was to graduate to bigger parts in Shakespeare." Television work built up to the point that, in the last six years, he has become exclusively a television actor. Meanwhile he read *The Ray Quartet*. Christopher Morahan was a friend, but he had not yet succeeded in setting up such a huge production. "He said to me 'I know what part you want to play' and he was right. I saw Merrick as a marvellous part, but I did not dare suggest myself at that stage. I think I got the part because I had to die of cancer of the jaw in *The Last Boys* and they thought I could cope with Merrick's injuries."

People who have wondered how he managed to act with half of his face apparently paralyzed may be reassured that no medical aids, such as numbing injections, were employed to produce that unnerving twitch of a half-smile. "The brilliant make-up

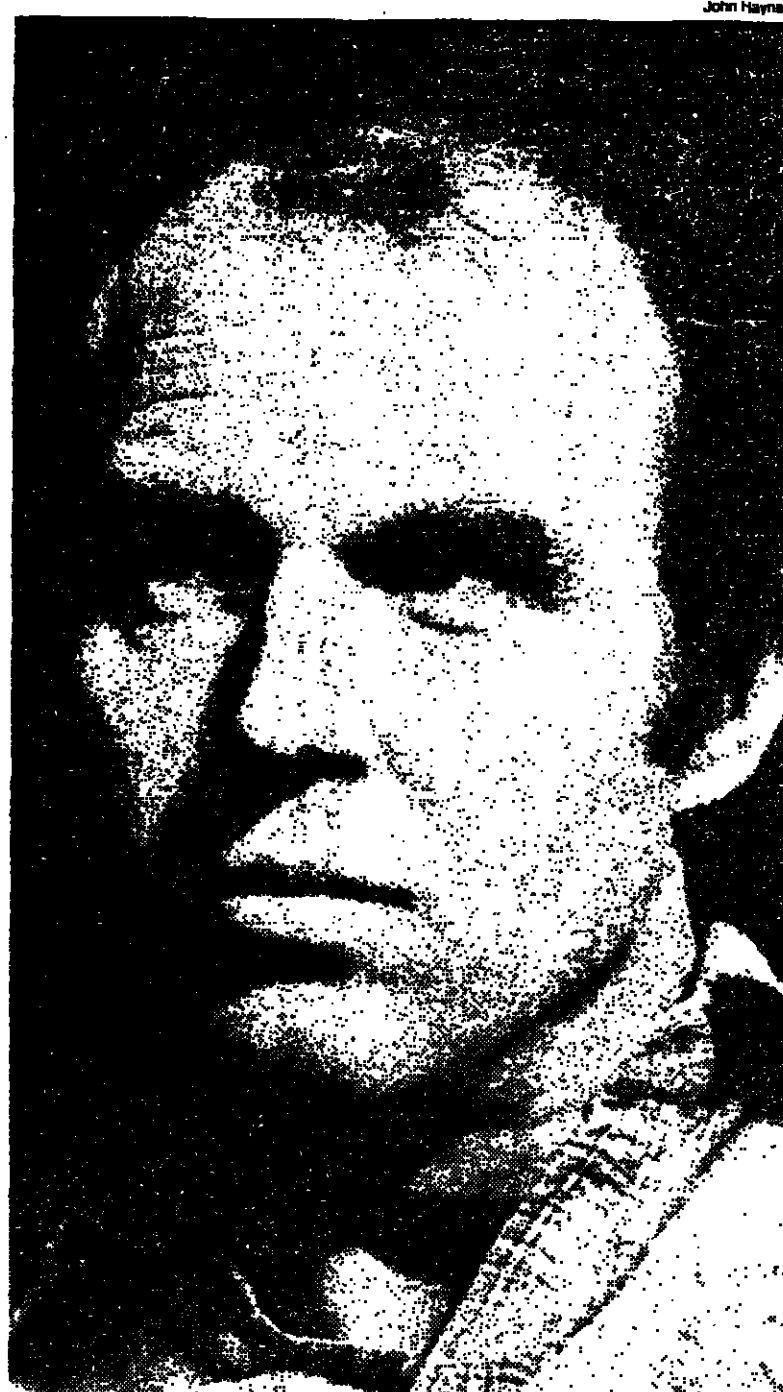
helped me to keep one eyelid drooping, but the mouth was done by thinking about it, really. I had two and a half hours in front of the make-up mirror each day."

Merrick's character was not so straightforwardly hateful to him as it at first appeared. "I drew on memories of a schoolmaster I intensely disliked, a man who bullied you but always made it appear that his abuse of power was just. But I tried to win Merrick a bit of sympathy on occasions. He's a victim of circumstances, doing what he believes to be right."

"Many people have said, or written to say, that they recognize Merrick. That's because he is written with such frightening accuracy. One of the things Paul Scott was knocking was the moral self-righteousness of the British. After 300 years of the Raj, the ruling caste would have come to despise their subjects, even if they had been white."

"It was the pivotal role and I was very keen to play it, but then you start to worry, of course. We had to wait nine months after shooting to see how it would go down and we all became more and more jumpy and nervous. Nervous that it wouldn't live up to our hopes. What we were really doing was trying to analyze some pretty recent history on television. But, as far as the reception was concerned, our hopes were exceeded."

Like his friend Jeremy Irons, he is aware of the danger of being identified with an outstanding television series role. "I was keen to get back to the theatre after six years. It's the ultimate yardstick. Anyone can get a scene more or less right after fifty takes. And in the theatre you can't blame the lighting cameraman for your shortcomings. You're answerable only to yourself."



John Haynes

Television
Singing for death

Bryten Breytenbach still feels very close to his elder brother, who was the first to instill in him a love for painting, music and literature. At an early stage their ways parted. He recalls their worst argument, which ended with his brother saying that the bravest thing young Bryten could do would be to kill him, at which point: "I just cracked and ran away. If he were given the order to eliminate me... I don't know what he would do." (pause) "I think he would do so."

The trouble is that, while Breyten's brother is an Afrikaner hero much admired by the brainwashed thugs (black as well as white) who act as "killing machines" for the government, Bryten himself is a dedicated Afrikaner traitor.

Last year he was released after seven years' incarceration, first in the pleasantly named Beverly Hills prison (where people were periodically hanged in batches) and then in a prison for common criminals where torture and rape were the norm, and almost murder was not uncommon.

Reading from his new novel, Breytenbach's words tumble out at anxious speed. Recalling the real things he has heard (for long periods he hardly saw his fellow-prisoners, except for their feet as they climbed to the gallows), he speaks swiftly but more deliberately, delineating a world more dreadful than anything outside — hard-core sado-masochistic fantasy.

He talks of "people chanting their death, singing their death, helping one another by singing continuously". He remembers the guards coming down from the scaffold to wash their hands, sometimes white and vomiting, sometimes grimly joking about their victims' last agonies.

He tells of the lengths to which prisoners will go to vary their routine — having all their teeth out, or poisoning a limb, for the pleasure of a holiday in hospital. Some, when in cheerful mood, paint sparrows the colour of canaries, to add a touch of class. Breytenbach himself paints in the manner of Francis Bacon.

He is frightened of those guards, whose power is absolute. "You have to win your life moment by moment, trying not to push them over the edge." They are apparently very bad at containing their paranoid anger. Most of South Africa's prison deaths, he thinks, are due to accidents of this sort. His documentary account of these experiences is due out later this year. Meanwhile, Nigel Williams's film for Arena (BBC 2) will do very well. In a manner of speaking.

The king in King (BBC 1) was actually Lear until the point, 40 minutes in, when this became apparent. Barrie Keeble's play about a Jamaican train driver at the moment of his retirement had been so slow and predictable that only duty had kept me glued to the set.

Thereafter, however, nothing could have torn me away. The kingdom was a terrace house in Bristol; Cordelia was a nurse; Goneril and Regan were represented by a good-time girl; a goods yard doubled up as the blasted heath.

Why was it so powerful? Nothing to do with the heavy lefty message. The key lay in Thomas Baptiste's splendid acting, in the convincing local twists, and in the way the original Lear story resonated in the background, like thunder.

Michael Church

Theatre
Checking Out
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

Two-character plays, from *Uncle Vanya* to *When Did You Leave Your Wife*, travel well these days and no agent could guide a playwright into lusher pastures. I am not sure about this one: Marcella Evaristi is a good name, but *Checking Out* has a spun-out, first-draft feel about it, even if it finally focuses on women's predicaments with an incisiveness and warmth of heart that show her particular touch. That touch can be very heavy too at times, and Alpin Smart's capably-written songs only slow the piece further instead of enriching it.

The three-piece hand plays amidst palms at the back of Caroline Beaver's two-bedded set, unmistakably a hotel from its fancy wall-bending. Here (classroom) chambermaids, waitress Elaine Collins and raptly assured Terry Neason, forge a friendship whose balance shifts over the next two hours.

The novice looks on as the sophisticated lets her engagement ring and her knowledge of London sparkle enviably. Neither can know that Miss Collins's idea of bugging guests' experiences will start them on a spiral of job-hopping through painfully educative territory.

During the heavily padded first act even a fly from the wall would have buzzed off to read the fire drill. Then one of the tapes records marital rape. Her feminist consciousness gains ground while her sexist friend progresses from nude modelling through posing on car bonnets at the Motor Show to her worst degradation as a hostess-stripper.

Miss Neason, whose most



Waifish and ripely assured: Elaine Collins (left) and Terry Neason

obvious strength is full-throated anger, takes well to the role of this buoyant victim, insisting on her own liberties while employed only as a sex-object and deserted by one lover after another.

Meanwhile Miss Collins, whom she deliciously compares to a Hitchcock child innocently trailing havoc, never lets go, and, when she finally cracks, is beside her with a *Women Against Porn* leaflet and an offer of a late supper that inaugurates true liberation.

Only these last scenes give the actresses, and Chris Parr's production, something to work with. The Evaristi irony rings through Miss Neason's brave description of splitting up with a lover (better than Weight-watcher), of stripping behind glass for a slaving punter or of a man (her fiancé, in fact) who notices his lays on the bedroom wall. But why use the theatre for what would make a punchy 45 minutes on television?

Anthony Masters

Shangri-La
ICA

What became of Manderley when the ashes cooled? For their new ICA show, *Hesitate and Demonstrate* imagine this prime seaview site converted to a holiday camp, and Mr and Mrs Mas de Winter re-enacting the romance of *Rebecca* in a parody of their original habitat. Whether it is the buller Frith or a grinning redcoat (played by the same actor) intimidating the young bride, Manderley is still a place of rule and ritual.

Maxim converts their cabin to a bridal bower with festoons of pink lavatory paper, and spreads a feast of crisps and tomatoes of Babyham. The girl's classic Freudian slip on the phone ("Mrs de Winter is dead") becomes a bleak "no-one here" on the Ansafone.

This bizarre scenario is well calculated for performance art, which delights in evocation (often using a continuous soundtrack), and rather incongruously, in detailed symbolism. When these things are pursued for their own sake, you get something that looks as though it ought to be a work of art, but does not achieve very much: images constantly referring backwards and forwards as though in a poem, but without a poem's sense of purpose.

The Shangri-La motif appears in a tea ceremony contrasted with Manderley breakfast in snatches of *Madam Butterfly* and the girl's slit silk skirt. The shack where Rebecca is shot becomes an oriental wendy-house and the skirt, neatly doubling as her successor's faux-pas fancy dress, keeps reappearing.

What is not clear, apart from why Manderley is forcibly drowned while ducking for apples, is what emerges from it all; but at least his second marriage is just as romantic as Butlin's as in continental exile.

Anthony Masters

Symphony on Ice
Albert Hall

The Albert Hall has always looked to me as if designed to be a skating rink, but at the opening of the John Curry Skating Company's show on Monday the newly installed ice obviously suffered from first-night nerves. At the advertised starting time, it looked better suited to *Swan Lake* than *Les Patineurs*, but Curry himself quietened any alarm by arriving on the orchestra platform to announce that it would be ready for them to start half an hour late.

The unprecedented addition of an encore from the Royal Philharmonic before the show helped to fill the gap, but the surface remained recalcitrant all evening. Bonus points all round

for the courage of all the performers who managed to stay smiling while executing daredevil stunts on a visibly corrugated layer of audibly thin ice. Curry himself must, with that addition, score at least nine out of six, because, with all due respect to younger competition, he remains an unequalled star among ice dancers.

He has also now succeeded in developing a team of colleagues who share his responsiveness to music and his way of moving like a dancer who skates rather than a skater who dances: body well pulled up, limbs well extended, everything elegant and open.

Curry has choreographed most of the numbers but has brought in three other choreographers. Jean-Pierre Bonnefous provides a couple of workmanlike but too balletic pieces, and Laura Dean shows

that her familiar circling dances work better on ice than on stage. Best of all is *Tango Tango*, in which Peter Martins has devised first a mean solo for Curry to Stravinsky, then a brilliantly witty duet for Curry and Jojo Starbuck to "Jealousy".

Gershwin's syncopation seems outside Curry's choreographic range, but apart from that he proves to have developed an impressively assured skill in creating dances that make very varied use, in different musical contexts, of the special skills of skaters: the extremes of speed, the bravura partnering.

Several of the other skaters have solos or duets, notably a Russian dance for David Santos, Glou's "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" for Patricia Dodd, and the Meditation from *Thais* for Catherine Foulkes

and Mark Hominuke. There is also an amusing ensemble for five men to an extract from Copland's *Rodeo*.

Teamwork is strong all evening, and the general standard high, but Curry himself emerges effortlessly, without any need for a special build-up, as the undisputed star, thanks to the exceptional beauty of his style and technique. Perhaps the happiest moments of the show are those when his individual contribution and the shared effort of the others blend seamlessly. The outstanding example is the big number that opens the second half, to music from *The Nutcracker*. The smoothness of movement, the rapt concentration of the whole company, and Curry's absolute dedication to his art become astonishingly touching.

John Percival

Koenig Ensemble
St John's/ Radio 3

A treble helping of treble music was on the menu for Monday's BBC Lunchtime Concert, beginning with Mozart's ethereal musical glasses quintet, ending with Schoenberg's top-heavy Chamber Symphony, Op 9, and including in the middle a new *Light Sonata*, self-consciously bright in sonority, by one Marco Tutino. Milanese and 30 this year, Mr Tutino has set to make any international reputation, and, if this was a fair sample of his work, then the

need for the BBC to press a commission upon him was not exactly overwhelming.

Apparently the title was intended to refer not only to transparency of sound but also to lack of weight, in which case the epithet was just, and to a certain extent in light music: the idea, estimable in itself, was to sign an official form in the sonata for elements of rhythm and harmony taken over from the unofficial world of "new wave" rock. What we heard, though, was romantic minimalism, a flicker of repeating patterns in a 12-minute flux of three short movements that found some wan middle ground

between Philip Glass and Henze. Otherwise the nearest model would seem to have been *Petruška* rather than anything more extraordinary, let alone more new.

The Mozart piece was done with a celesta replacing the original glass harmonica, and so instead of Goethe's "heartbeat of the world" we heard the tinkles of the Sugar Plum Fairy: an electronic synthesizer could surely provide the requisite Aeolian vibrations much more satisfactorily. The Schoenberg also sounded a little odd, but for more interesting reasons. Jan Latham-Koenig, conducting, avoided bringing

out Schoenberg's procrusteanism and instead accepted the music as brittle in texture, fractured in design, spasmodic in movement, a puppet sonata rather than the portrait of a mind on the edge of madness.

My praise for the "sardonic Kutuzov" in Monday's notice of *War and Peace* at the Coliseum went to the wrong artist. The role was sung by Norman Bailey. My apologies.

Paul Griffiths

Concert
Romantic minimalism all too lightKoenig Ensemble
St John's/ Radio 3

A treble helping of treble music was on the menu for Monday's BBC Lunchtime Concert, beginning with Mozart's ethereal musical glasses quintet, ending with Schoenberg's top-heavy Chamber Symphony, Op 9, and including in the middle a new *Light Sonata*, self-consciously bright in sonority, by one Marco Tutino. Milanese and 30 this year, Mr Tutino has set to make any international reputation, and, if this was a fair sample of his work, then the

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Apparently the title was intended to refer not only to transparency of sound but also to lack of weight, in which case the epithet was just, and to a certain extent in light music: the idea, estimable in itself, was to sign an official form in the sonata for elements of rhythm and harmony taken over from the unofficial world of "new wave" rock. What we heard, though, was romantic minimalism, a flicker of repeating patterns in a 12-minute flux of three short movements that found some wan middle ground

between Philip Glass and Henze. Otherwise the nearest model would seem to have been *Petruška* rather than anything more extraordinary, let alone more new.

The Mozart piece was done with a celesta replacing the original glass harmonica, and so instead of Goethe's "heartbeat of the world" we heard the tinkles of the Sugar Plum Fairy: an electronic synthesizer could surely provide the requisite Aeolian vibrations much more satisfactorily. The Schoenberg also sounded a little odd, but for more interesting reasons. Jan Latham-Koenig, conducting, avoided bringing

out Schoenberg's procrusteanism and instead accepted the music as brittle in texture, fractured in design, spasmodic in movement, a puppet sonata rather than the portrait of a mind on the edge of madness.

My praise for the "sardonic Kutuzov" in Monday's notice of *War and Peace* at the Coliseum went to the wrong artist. The role was sung by Norman Bailey. My apologies.

Paul Griffiths

Adelaide Festival

Revelation of Glen Tetley at his best

Taylor's *For Ever and Ever* was a passionately-felt but confusingly-staged drama set in a nuclear bunker and danced to Penderecki's *Magnificat*. It made more impact through its designs, by Peter Mumford, and its atmospheric lighting than through the unremitting violence of the choreography.

However, the work at the centre of the programme was by Glen Tetley and here instantly was a different world of both choreography and theatre. Entitled *Revelation and Fall*, it uses Peter Maxwell Davies's score of the same name, excellently sung by the Australian soprano Marilyn Richardson. The expressionist imagery of Trakl's prose-poem was not

linked literally to the dance. Rather it took its life from a sentence in *The White Goddess* by Robert Graves: "Myth begins in the blasted landscape where the God of the Dying Year and God of the Rising Year struggle for the love of the Muse and their elusive quarry the snow-white deer".

The blasted landscape, quite beautifully realized by the designer Michael Pearce, consisted of two sharp hills, splashed white and black, splashed surfaces suggested rocks emerging through melting snow under a great billowing cloudscape. The epic mood was established at once. How satisfying it is to see the simplicity with which this choreographer suggests

inner life, thought and feeling. From the start Guy Doyet as the Old God and Simone Clifford as the Muse drew one into a timeless world of inevitability and emotional force. The replacement of the Old God by the Young — a brilliant performance by Robert Canning — and their pursuit of the White Deer, danced by Margaret Wilson, was all the story of action. There were occasional overtones of *Apollo* but above all there was the brooding intensity of earlier Tetley pieces like *Mythical Hunters*. It was thrilling to see how only four dancers could people a vast stage with the power of personality and feeling. *Revelation and Fall* is Tetley at his very best.

A similar impact was made in quite a different way earlier in the festival by the remarkable Raun Raun Theatre of Papua New Guinea. Here a company of nearly thirty actors, dancers and musicians presented in pidgin English a version of the Trobriand Island Creation Myths devised by the contemporary poet John Kasaipwalova, in two parts entitled *Sail the Midnight Sun* and *My Tide Let Me Ride*. Joy was the emotion these productions aroused most powerfully. The young performers, brought together from many different tribes and communities, pooled their different theatrical traditions in a piece of modern theatre which still kept close to the roots of a society. It was performed in the open air under the stars.

Tuned logs, drums, flutes, the eerie sound of the conch and rhythmic chanting came from the trees behind the stage. The performers rushed out of the darkness to share, so it felt, with the audience their pleasure and excitement in the stories they were telling. At one moment the mother brought on stage first a babe in arms, then a small child, then a youth, to symbolize the growing up of the hero Nugini. Each time she slowly circled the stage, pausing to look in wonder at the real

presence of the moon hanging large above us in the night sky. Later four ghostly, masked totem figures, that had made up the stage decoration, unexpectedly grew huge in size and moved menacingly to surround the hero. These were unforgettable images, helped by subtle lighting and reinforced by the constant infectious sense of laughter. Raun Raun is a company that demands to be seen in Europe.

The vitality of Raun Raun made a curious contrast with the production of *The World is Made of Glass*, a new play by the Australian novelist Morris West. Preceded by an article in the festival programme, heavy with the clutter of dropping names, and directed by the author himself — a subject on which he also waxed long — this exploration of the private life of Carl Gustav Jung and his involvement with one of his patients was both pretentious and unconvincing. Full of inept and empty rhetoric, it was like phoney Wilde with sex scenes. Infinitely more impressive was the Round Earth Company from Hobart, recounting in three short plays by Richard Davey the destruction of the aboriginal communities of Tasmania. Performed by three white actors, the issues of colonialism, raw and strident, were brought uncomfortably close. It was one of many telling reminders in this year's Adelaide Festival that there was an Australia long before the white man.

John Drummond

"A picture needs as much trickery as a crime"

DEGAS

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BLOOMSBURY

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elegance of ballet, and sometimes the
controlled violence of karate."
— Independent Review
"This is one show you feel GOOD after."
— Telegraph

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares fall again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 26. Dealings End April 6. Contango Day, April 9. Settlement Day, April 16

1983/84 High Low Stock Price Ch'ge Pence % P/E				1983/84 High Low Stock Price Ch'ge Pence % P/E				1983/84 High Low Stock Price Ch'ge Pence % P/E				1983/84 High Low Stock Price Ch'ge Pence % P/E				1983/84 High Low Stock Price Ch'ge Pence % P/E				
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FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	509.9 (515.58)
500 SHARE INDEX	557.74 (564.19)
EARNINGS YIELD	9.79% (9.68%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.31% (4.25%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.56 (12.70)
ALL SHARE INDEX	517.06 (522.95)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.44% (4.39%)

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A new competition policy from Norman Tebbit

The Government is about to launch a series of initiatives designed to give fresh impetus to its competition policy - and set Mr Norman Tebbit's stamp on the development of economic strategy. A statement ending the present uncertainty about the role of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is expected shortly, followed by a series of separate attacks on different areas of monopoly power in the economy.

The Trade and Industry Secretary will confirm the continued existence of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, operating under blurred banner of the "public interest". The Government approves of the flexibility this allows in relation to important takeovers, both in the commission's deliberations and in the Trade and Industry Secretary's use of his discretion. However, there will be some pretty firm definition of "the public interest", designed to make plain it lies in the direction of greater competition.

This raises some interesting questions about the Government's attitude to foreign takeovers, particularly of City institutions. The Governor of the Bank of England last month made it a little too plain that he would take a different attitude to a takeover of, say, an insurance company than to foreign control of a top British bank. In the eyes of the Department of Trade and Industry, the division is not so crude: for any institution, the burden of proof rests on those seeking to keep foreigners out.

A clear new lease of life for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will please the Confederation of British Industry, which has been waiting somewhat impatiently for the Trade and Industry Secretary's long-awaited statement. Many of the Government's subsequent moves will not earn it so many friends. The long overdue review of monopolistic practices in the professions is likely to be stepped up. Building societies are another obvious target for further attention by the Department of Trade and Industry, but insurance companies can breathe easier.

The most tantalising target is the Stock Exchange, from which the DTI last year withdrew its legal barriers. On the DTI plate now is the Gower report on investor protection. The DTI has pencilled in legislation for 1985-86, after it has seen the results of the Cork report through parliament, but would like the substance of the bill to emerge from the City.

In other words, the Government would like to see the City prove its self-regulating abilities by putting forward proposals (on issues not necessarily confined to investor protection), allowing the civil servants relatively easy task of laying the legislative coping-stone on a City edifice. A revamped Council for the Securities Industry could be the architect of such a construction.

The changing gilt edged market

Monday sees yet another structural change in the gilt market, as commissions at the long end of the market are trimmed. But what starts life as a small backward step for brokers' income - and perhaps the price of half-timbered Tudors in Woking - may herald a giant forward stride toward a radically different gilt-edged market in five years' time. When the changes are complete, it is hard to imagine that the present system of selling government debt, which has lasted roughly since the French Revolution, will survive intact.

The net effect of the commission changes should be small, affecting only bargains worth more than £250,000. The cost of dealing in £1m worth of long falls from £1,286.25 to £1,098.75; in £5m from £4,786.25 to £4,198.75; and for £10m from £7,286.25 to £6,198.75. But in 1982, the last full year for which figures are available, gilt turnover for stocks over five years and undated was worth £103 billion, and totalled 760,000 bargains. Perhaps the City's charmed circle of gilt brokers is not being asked to surrender too much at first bite.

The commission cuts, however, will serve as a reminder that the countdown to Big Bang time, when fixed commissions are scrapped completely, has begun. Under the present timetable, deregulation will not take place before the autumn of 1985, and theoretically should have been completed by the end of 1986.

Until then, the current system will stay in operation. The Government Broker will continue to sell debt on behalf of the Government and the Bank of England; three firms of brokers, Mullens, Pender and Boyle and Grievson Grant will continue to account for some 30 per cent of all business; and just over 10 firms will transact about three-quarters of all the business.

But not indefinitely, judging by the common thread running through recent link-ups between financial institutions. The Greenwell/Montagu/Midland deal and the Barclays/Wedderburn/Zoete groupings are similar insofar as they give gilt traders access if they want it to broad retail markets, through the banks' branch networks.

Clive Discounts decision to job in selective gilts, and Kleinwort Benson's acquisition for £19m of a primary dealer in US bonds are also linked in that they signal a shift by United Kingdom institutions into market making. The Bank of England has been shrewd over the years in keeping alive an embryonic market-making structure in the shape of the discount market, and the National Savings Department started something, when it proved capable of selling gilts by the billion direct to the public.

Assuming that the gilt-edged market's orientation switches from wholesale to retail, and that the embargo on private partnerships' hoarding capital (which effectively has prevented them in the past from becoming market makers) is lifted by banking connexions, then the system of selling debt is bound to come under scrutiny. Again the new mechanisms exist in embryo. Engineering a change in the method of selling debt could be done quite quickly, were the discount houses weekly tender for £100m of Treasury bills expanded. A wider range of market makers could tender quite easily, New York style, for anything up to £1 billion a week - roughly the size of the daily money market shortages - if the Bank of England offered a portfolio of debt, including short, medium and long-dated gilts, as well as Treasury bills.

But if the present system does go - and the authorities stress that anything can happen - spare a thought for the Government Broker, Mr Nigel Althaus and Mullens. Suddenly, they will cease being the cynosure of market eyes, and revert to being just another broking firm. The Government's best friend among brokers surely deserves a better fate.

Tempus, page 18

Test of Britoil's loyalty factor

The small investors who valiantly parted with their savings to buy shares in the embarrassing Britoil flotation 17 months ago appear to be more resilient than the Government perhaps deserves. Britoil's annual report and accounts provides a detailed breakdown of the share register, and it makes interesting reading. At the end of last year 37,924 individuals held shares in the company, 27,000 of whom held fewer than 1,000 shares. Together they accounted for 5 per cent of the total share capital.

When the issue was launched in November 1982, there were 35,424 applications from private investors, all of whom, naturally, received all they had asked for (70 per cent of the shares were left with the underwriters). Plenty of shares will have been traded between the time of issue and the end year "snapshot" in the report and accounts, but it is a safe assumption that the two groups are by and large the same people. Most have hung on to their shares and resisted the temptation to cut their losses when the share price dipped last year. The Government's one for ten free offer to small investors who retain their original shares until next November (three years after the issue) has evidently proved a potent force.

It will be interesting to see how many small investors are still in evidence at the end of this year now that the share price has established some sort of permanent looking premium over the 215p issue price. Last night they closed at 245, not enough to make profit-taking irresistible.

Stanley Gibbons faces writ for £45,000 from dealer

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Paul Urch of Urch Holdings, an independent stamp dealing business in Bristol, said yesterday that his company had a £45,000 claim against Stanley Gibbons Holdings which was not disclosed in its prospectus.

Mr Urch is a member of the family which set up Urch Harris in the 1960s and then sold the business to Stanley Gibbons. He has been an independent stamp dealer since 1977. He said yesterday that he had issued a writ in Bristol Crown Court, which was acknowledged by Stanley Gibbons on 19 December 1983, claiming £45,000 against the company for inducing a breach of contract.

"It is not a question of the validity of the claim, just the fact that it is a court document which has been acknowledged

by them but which was not disclosed in the prospectus."

However, Mr David Stokes, Stanley Gibbons managing director yesterday refuted Mr Urch's claims and said: "The claim Paul Urch is talking about was fully disclosed to our lawyers when we drafted the prospectus. The only reason that it would not have appeared is on legal advice." He added that he could recall correspondence with Mr Urch but not a formal claim being made.

Mr Urch said the claim related to a contract he had to supply stamps to two South Africans which his firm had held for two years. He said that Stanley Gibbons took over the South Africans' business and he was subsequently shut out. His claim also includes action in

South Africa totalling about £60,000 relating to bad debts which affected the trading of his company.

He had intended to make details of his claim public when he first saw the prospectus but delayed on legal advice. He said: "It's been on my mind for some time. I was going to issue a statement to the Philatelic Traders Society but was advised not to by my solicitors."

This news comes after Monday's embarrassing start to Stanley Gibbons' return to a public quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market when the shares were suspended before trading officially began.

Today, Mr Clive Feigenbaum, Stanley Gibbons' chairman, whose past business dealings have led to the

suspension, is standing for readmission to the Philatelic Traders Society which expelled him in 1970. Six leading stamp dealers have said they will resign if he is readmitted.

Stanley Gibbons' shares remained suspended yesterday with no clear indication of when dealings would be allowed to start. Mr Stokes reiterated that the allegations made in the *Sunday Times* about Mr Feigenbaum's connexion with a stamp business which had collapsed less than a year ago had "not affected our confidence in the company."

Mr David Cohen, of Simon & Coates, the stockbrokers which brought Stanley Gibbons to the market said: "We carried out very expensive inquiries prior to accepting sponsorship."

Government sell-offs cost £22m

By Jonathan Davis

Financial Correspondent

The Government's privatization programme has cost it more than £22m in City fees and underwriting commission, Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, disclosed yesterday.

The figures were given in answer to a Parliamentary question by Dr Conaugh (Down), Labour MP for Thurrock, who had asked for a list of the fees and commission paid on six of the Government's most important denationalization measures during the last five years.

These include the five big stock market flotations of publicly owned corporations undertaken by the Government, together with the management buyout of the National Freight Corporation. The totals listed in the table are the combined cost of the underwriting commission and the fees charged by the stockbrokers, merchant banks and legal advisers in each issue.

The figures provided by Mr Moore do not include however the fees and commission which the Government paid by the two BP share sales in 1979 and last year, nor the costs of the second Cable & Wireless offer last September.

As sales of what were already minority shareholdings, these issues did not result in a shift in the company's ownership from the public to private sector but they are estimated to have earned the City at least another £15m in fees and underwriting commission, to add to the £22m itemized yesterday.

Mr Moore also listed the firms involved in each of the six main privatization issues and last year's second Cable & Wireless offer. These show that Kleinwort Benson and Schroder Wagg have both been involved as primary underwriters in five of the issues, more than any other merchant bank.

COST OF PRIVATIZATION		
	Date	Fees & comm. (£m)
Britoil	1982 11.07.1	11.07.1
Cable & Wireless	1981 4.9.83	4.9.83
British Aerospace	1981 3.8.82	3.8.82
Assoc Brit Ports	1983 1.4.00	1.4.00
Amersham Int	1982 1.3.91	1.3.91
Net Freight	1982 0.2.85	0.2.85
TOTAL		22.684

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chemical companies to invest £2.9bn in plant

British chemical companies plan to invest £2.9 billion in plant and equipment in Britain over the next five years despite the threat of increased competition from Arab producers in the mid-1980s.

Sir Michael Colman, chairman of the Chemical Industries Association's trade affairs board and a director of Reckitt & Colman, said that companies are concentrating on short term projects rather than the huge investment of £100m plus which typified spending in the 1970s.

● The Royal Dutch/Shell group's tender offer for its US affiliate Shell Oil has been increased from \$55 to \$58 (£40) per share. The new offer starts today, is worth \$5.5 billion

(£3.8 billion) for the 30 per cent minority not already owned by Royal Dutch/Shell.

● Texaco, which has so far stood back from the petrol promotion war on the forecourts, has completed its acquisition of the Chevron chain of 219 filling stations to move into fourth place in the petrol market with its share up to 12 per cent in Europe.

● Mr Ken Gill, chairman of the advertising agency group Saatchi & Saatchi, hinted yesterday that the Budget cuts in corporation tax would be passed on to shareholders. He told the yearly meeting that the tax changes would improve earnings per share by about 14 per cent.

Branson float plan

By Jeremy Warner

Mr Richard Branson's fast-growing Virgin records and entertainments empire could seek about £20m from stock market investors in the autumn. The 34-year-old entrepreneur said yesterday that he was considering proposals from County Bank for floating his company on the stock market.

This is a significant change of heart by Mr Branson who has strongly resisted the idea of going public on the grounds that it would restrict the company's ability to take advantage swiftly of business opportunities. Mr Branson said: "I have been persuaded that if we floated 10 per cent on the Unlisted Securities Market it would not interfere too much with the company's flexibility and the financial position of the group would be strengthened."

Virgin, which besides its highly successful pop records business takes in such diverse ventures as gay night clubs, feature films and book publishing, is expected to realise a value of up to £200m when floated on the stock market.

It made profits last year of £11m on sales of a little more than £100m and another big jump in turnover and earnings is expected this year.

Compromise hopes on Nigerian debts

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Nigerian officials and some of the country's biggest suppliers are to meet in London on Friday in an eleventh hour attempt to avoid a damaging public confrontation over proposals to refinance overdue trade debts.

Formal proposals on refinancing about \$2.5 billion of uninsured trade debts were due to be unveiled today. But S. G. Warburg, advising the Nigerian Government, has been asked to delay release of the proposals, which would have been available simultaneously round the world, so as not to prejudice Friday's discussions.

The Nigerians have consistently refused to negotiate with Morgan Grenfell, which will not attend Friday's meeting, and have made no secret of their resentment at what they regard as ganging up by trade creditors.

Alhaji Abukakar Alhaji, permanent secretary at the Nigerian Ministry of Finance, is to hold discussions with trade creditors drawn from a group advised by Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, which have been worried about the quality of the six-year promissory notes they are to be offered under the refinancing.

Hanson to sell food at Olympics

By Andrew Cornelius

Hanson Industries, the United States subsidiary of Lord Hanson's Hanson Trust group, has completed a multi-million pound deal for the summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The Volume Services Group, a subsidiary of Interstate Services, Hanson's US food sales business, has won concessions for 375 service points at the Los Angeles Coliseum and sports arena which will be the centre for the main Olympic events.

Sir Gordon White, who heads Hanson Industries, confirmed yesterday that the concession is the largest short-term food and beverage contract in the history of the US.

He estimates that Hanson will sell \$10m (£7.5m) of food and drink during the 16-day event. This contract comes after the company's success in providing food and drinks for the American Superbowl earlier this year which was held at the Tampa Bay stadium.

Interstate already holds important sales concessions at the Coliseum and six other American sports stadia. The company will be adding to existing sales points at the Coliseum for the Olympics and will also be selling beer, soft drinks, hot dogs, health foods, peanuts and a whole range of other food products from mobile points.

Attack on Gower

The City Capital Markets Committee, a group of influential individuals led by Mr Nicholas Baring, the merchant banker, yesterday called for the creation of an Investor Protection Panel to run in parallel with the City Takeover Panel under the aegis of the Council for the Securities Industry.

The Committee, which includes bankers, lawyers and leaders of investment bodies wants the recommendations of the Gower report on investor protection to be amended to allow a large measure of self-regulation in the City.

In a paper responding to Gower, the committee wants no more than half-a-dozen, self-regulatory agencies accountable to the new investor protection panel. The Department of Trade and Industry should take a correspondingly less active role.

● The Stock Exchange Council met yesterday to consider its discussion document on changes in its rules, including the creation of tradeable corporate membership "seats". The document is expected to be published in the next few weeks.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1095.4 down 12.7 (High: 1101.5 Low: 1095.4)
FT index: 859.2 down 11.2
FT 100 down 0.36
Bargains: 31.019
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 112.98 down 1.2
New York Dow Jones Average: (closed) 1154.94 up 1.78
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,933.82 down 116.37
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1033.19 up 9.23
Amsterdam: 172.9 down 0.3
Frankfurt: 174.8 down 4.2
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1025.9 up 3.3
Brussels: General Index: 147.07 up 0.35
Paris: CAC Index: 164.5 up 0.4
Zurich: SBA General: 309.2 down 0.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
1.4310 down 45pts
Index 79.7 down 0.1
DM 3.7375 unchanged
FF 11.49 unchanged
Yen 321.75 down 0.75
Delta
Index 126.9 up 0.8
DM 2.6100 down 0.0122
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling 1.4325
Dollar DM 2.6120
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 16.6883
SDR 10.739425

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8%
3 month interbank 9 - 8%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 3/4 - 10%
3 month DM 5% - 5%
3 month FF 13-14% - 14%

US rates

Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 10 1/4
Treasury long bond 9% - 9%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 9.976 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$381.15 pm \$380.40
close \$381.50 - \$381.50 (£256.50 - £256.50)
New York (latest): \$381.50
Krugerrand (per coin): \$392.75 - \$394.25 (£274 - £276)
Sovereigns (new): \$89.75 - \$91.25 (£62 - £64)
*Excludes VAT

Tripled profits for Christies

● Christies International, the fine art auction house, more than tripled its pre tax profits last year from £3.2m to £9.8m. A final dividend of 6p is being recommended, lifting the total for the year from 7p to 8.5p. The chairman, Mr John Floyd, said that evidence from both London and New York confirms that buoyancy in the international art market is continuing. Tempus, page 18

● Riley Leisure, the snooker table manufacturer, snooker club owner and keep-fit equipment supplier, increased pre tax profits for the 12 months to December, 1983, to £1.87m compared with £878,000 for the 17 months to December 1982. Turnover increased by nearly £10m over the same period to £25.06m. The 2.2p final dividend makes 4.6p for the year. Tempus, page 18

Surprise move after Sierra launch and Vauxhall's advance

Ford of Europe chief steps down

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Mr Edward Blanch, who in a surprise move is stepping down as chairman of Ford of Europe, based in Britain, has during his 20 months in the job seen the launching of the controversial Sierra and an increasingly successful sales drive by Ford's arch-rival, General Motors, with its Opel and Vauxhall subsidiaries.

Ford said Mr Blanch had decided to retire and would remain with the company as a corporate vice-president until the year's end to complete business studies of international markets.

By then Mr Blanch will be within three months of his 59th birthday. Although Ford's retirement age is still 65 an increasing number of top executives, particularly in the United States, are retiring



Edward Blanch: business studies until year's end

earlier, sometimes at about 55, Ford said.

Mr Blanch is an American who has been with the company for 32 years.

Mr James Capolongo, president of Ford of Europe, will coordinate the company's activities for the time being. This will be in conjunction with Mr Bob Lutz, executive vice-president for international automotive operations.

Mr Capolongo, who succeeded Mr Blanch as president, is one of the youngest of Ford's corporate vice-presidents.

Mr Blanch was president of Ford of Europe from 1979 until he moved up the chairmanship. He had been a Ford vice-president since 1973.

Ford's Sierra model, the successor to the Corina, has been compared unfavourably with its predecessor in maximising Ford sales. Vauxhall's Cavalier was the best-selling car in Britain during February, while the Sierra was fourth.

But the Sierra in the past year has been consistently in the top five best-selling cars and Ford's Escort, the best selling car in January, has been selling well. The surge in Vauxhall sales has come at a time when big discount offers have been available through dealers with manufacturer backing. But Ford in Britain has so far rejected heavy backing.

In Europe overall last year the Sierra was the fourth most popular car, with a 3.7 per cent market share. The Escort held second position, with a 4.3 per cent market share.

Boddingtons

BODDINGTONS' BREWERIES PLC

Results for the year to 31st December 1983

	1983 (£'000s)	1982 (£'000s)
Turnover	47,701	44,474
Profit before tax	9,095	8,609
Profit after tax	5,082	4,653
Dividend payment per share	2.64p	2.40p

Points made by the Chairman, Mr. Ewart Boddington:

- Net profit rose by 7.6% after allowing for a non-recurring profit of £300,000 in 1982, arising from accounting policy changes connected with the Oldham Brewery acquisition.
- Oldham Brewery's profit contribution increased at a substantial and satisfactory rate.
- Capital investment during the year reached a record level of £6.29m of which almost £5m was spent on improvements and additions to the licensed estate.
- Market share fully maintained.
- Demand for our locally-brewed cask-conditioned beers remains strong.
- Despite difficult trading conditions in the North West we look forward to another year of continued progress.

Annual General Meeting, Midland Hotel, Manchester, 11.45 a.m. Friday 4th May.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from: The Company Secretary, P.O. Box 331, Strangeways Brewery, Manchester M60 3EL.

Boddingtons Strangeways Brewery Manchester



STOCK MARKET REPORT

US interest rate fears take shine off equities and gilts

By Derek Pain

Worries about transatlantic interest rates hit shares and Government stocks yesterday. The FT 30 share index fell 11.6 points to 959.2 just two weeks ago, as share buying enthusiasm mounted, it soared past 900 points for the first time.

There are, despite the slide from 900 points, still some huge profits to be taken from the market's decline in self-feeding as the market is acutely conscious of the temptation to take profits before the end of the financial year or shortly after the new tax year starts.

Most leaders were marked lower with recent high flyers, like Bower, riding above 330p on its US de-merger plan last week, tumbled 12p to 309p.

And Commercial Union, the insurance group at the centre of some extensive bid speculation, fell 11p to 218p. Ahead of figures tomorrow, *Guardian* Fielding, Newson-Smith, the stockbroker, expects the MacLellan-Gilbert main whisky group to produce current year profits of £300,000 against £171,000. Mr Tom Corran and Mr Neil Scourie, the analysts like the shares despite the tiny 1.5 per cent dividend yield. "The only likely movement in the share price is upwards," they say. Yesterday the shares were unchanged at 730p.

Royal and Phoenix Assurance slipped.

Gilts were also chastened by sterling's weakness and recorded falls of up to half-a-point. Gold shares lacked support.

Talk of an investment seminar lifted UEL 12p to 185p and advertising group Saatchi and Saatchi responded to annual meeting cheer with a 2p-plus to 62p.

Atlantic Resources, the once high flying Irish wonder stock, remained depressed awaiting the Waterford drill reports. The shares lost 50p to 200p.

Hartons jumped 4p to 46p on the 400 per cent profits surge and Brammer edged ahead one penny to 185p on its more modest 25 per cent profit gain.

Building shares lost ground, mainly on fears more activity, being caught in the VAT net.

BFB, the plasterboard group, fell 8p to 300p despite stock-

brokers revising upwards their profits forecast.

Controversial property man, Mr David Kirsh, who already owns 20 per cent of Channel Hotels and Properties, a 163 facility traded stock which is known in the market as CHAPS, is bidding 55p a share for the rest. Already shareholders with more than 50 per cent of the capital have accepted.

Mr Kirsh clearly intends to use CHAPS as his property vehicle and is pumping some of his interests into the company. A company associated with the Lapidus family, which hitherto controlled CHAPS, will acquire the Grand Hotel, Jersey, following the Kirsh deal.

Another take over originated yesterday from the Channel Islands, Jersey-based Mr David Bulstrode, who runs Marler Estates and is involved in the battle for control of Stanford Bridge (home of Chelsea FC) and is offering £9.05p in cash or loan notes for property business Weber Holdings through a company called Wellington Estates.

Weber's shares jumped £3.25p more than £10. Mr Bulstrode already has nearly 50 per cent of Weber. His bid values the company at £24m. The Bulstrode intention is to develop Weber as his property investment vehicle with Marler concentrating on property development.

Norfolk Capital Group, the hotel company headed by Lady Joseph (widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, the creator of Grand Metropolitan) fell 2p to 63p as Stakis, the Scottish leisure group, sold its shareholding, seemingly to the Kuwait Investment Office.

Mr Brian Reynolds, chairman of the Micro Focus computer software group, will be host at his Newbury, Berkshire, headquarters today to a party of stockbroker analysts. Institutional investment managers will meet Mr Reynolds there tomorrow. The company, which came to the USM two years ago at 155p against yesterday's 92p (up 20p), is likely to have some good news for the expectant cars. It has just clinched a modest US deal, supplying software for the Vienna range of computers of Northern Telecom.

The KIO now has 13.1 per cent of Norfolk and after the Joseph family and board, with around 32 per cent, is the largest single shareholder.

Rumours of a bid have swirled about Norfolk this year with Stakis and Kennedy Brooks building up and then

selling shareholdings. Last week Norfolk announced a deep discounted rights issue to raise £3.2m.

The death of Mr Alexander Gourvitch, former chairman of Phoenix Timber Group, over the weekend prompted speculation of a takeover bid for the company in the stock market yesterday. Family trusts own around 25 per cent of Phoenix shares. But Mr Dennis Cook, the company's new chairman said that the death would make no difference to the standing of the trusts.

Pritchard Services was little changed at 131p following news that the laundry, cleaning and security group had made a £5.7m provision for the loss from the disposal of the St George's Group linen hire business to Sunlight Services in February.

St George's was acquired for £2.4m more than three years ago by Pritchard as part of Spring Grove after a £17m bid battle against Sunlight last September. St George's trading losses had forced Spring Grove to seek a merger.

The results for the year reported yesterday include profits from Spring Grove from the period it traded as part of Pritchard. But Mr Peter Pritchard, the chairman, says the results do not include St George's figures which "in the opinion of the directors would have been misleading".

Mr Pritchard says he expects that 1984 "will show a healthy profit increase" with North America as a big contributor. Profits last year to the end of January were £12.8m, little changed on last year's £12.4m and the shares slipped 2p to 534p.

Meanwhile among merchant banks, Charterhouse J Rothschild closed 3p down to 121p, Hambros lost 2p to 148p and Mercury Securities recovered an early 5p fall to close unchanged at 608p.

BSR International was unchanged at 288p. At the yearly shareholders' meeting Mr William Wylie, chairman, said he expected further strong sales and profits growth in the present year.

Gains on Monday totalled 28,948, valued at £270,930m. Gilt bargains were 3,621. Total number of UK and Irish shares traded was 161.6 million.

Profits from associated companies fell from £3.8m to 129p despite a total dividend of 3.3p against 3p.

The result included an extraordinary profit of £5.3m from the sale of London Stone and Pritchard Industrial Services to ICC Oil Services.

Profits from associated companies fell from £3.8m to 129p despite a total dividend of 3.3p against 3p.

£2.4m, largely because a big contract in Riyadh had been completed the previous year. Beer shares remained flat despite a 10.6 per cent jump in production in February. In the first two months of the year production was up 6.4 per cent.

Last year the declining trend which has been evident since output peaked in 1979 was halted although the gain was only 0.9 per cent.

There was market gossip that Whitbread was having talks with Trusthouse Forte over the possibility of buying THF's Henekeys chain of small hotels and steak bars.

Minet Holdings, the insurance group, was up 11p to 182p. It has a share stake in Corron and Black, the American group which has collected a bid.

Further apprehension over budget implications had most banks depressed. Lloyds lost 3p to 614p, Barclays was 5p lower.

Nationwide Leisure, once the controversial Equitable Industrial Co of Scotland, has just reported profits of £401,000 for the year to end of October last and, with the Neilson package tour business now in tow, should top £800,000 comfortably in its current year. The shares were unchanged at 21p yesterday.

At 534p but National Westminster recovered an early 5p fall to end the day unchanged at 679p.

Discount houses fell in line with market sentiment ahead of completing its deal with Merchant House. Alexanders Discount eased 15p to 565p, Gernard and National slipped 4p in sympathy to 327p and Union Discount dropped 10p to 738p.

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Booker in £6.9m US expansion

Booker McConnell, the international food and health products group, has bought the Radiance vitamins and health foods business, from Iroquois Brands, the United States consumer group, for £6.9m.

The acquisition is Booker's third investment in the health foods market in recent years. Booker's US subsidiary, American Health Products of New York, already sells 59m vitamin and health food products annually.

Radiance made pretax profits of £648,000 last year on sales of £14.5m. The company markets a range of vitamin supplements under the Radiance name, while its subsidiary, El Meline, markets a range of natural foods through health food shops.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

A Stronger dollar, still being boosted by Monday's increase in US construction spending and the firmer overnight Federal funds rate of 10 1/4 per cent, led sterling down by 45 points yesterday at 1.4310. The pound ended largely unchanged against the franc at 166.5, although the trade-weighted index was 0.1 lower at 79.7.

Dealers said there was little direction to most of the day's trade, with commercial orders mostly responsible for the movements which saw the dollar well above DM 2.62 at some stages. Eurodollar rates had also helped, by opening higher.

Profit-taking brought the US unit back to DM 2.61 at the close - 80 points better than overnight, but cheaper against French francs by 3.5 centimes at 8.0250.

MONEY MARKETS

It took a late repurchasing activity by the Bank of England to swing things the market's way yesterday. The Bank had kicked off with the forecast of a £600m shortage, and followed up with purchases of £360m of bills in bands 2, 3, and 4 at established rates.

Although the Bank's repurchases took the total of the day's assistance to only £58.3m, money came out in size at the end of the day, enabling houses to pick up final balances as low as 3 per cent.

Interbank overnight money changed hands at 8 3/4 per cent to 5-8 per cent for much of the session, though rates fell away to about 4 per cent.

TEMPUS

Christies and the gentle art of tripling profits

A dramatic recovery in the fine art market in Britain and the United States helped Christies International to triple its pretax profits from £3.2m to £9.8m last year. The season for big sales has not yet started, but all the evidence points to continued buoyancy in the international art market and Christies is confident that results for the first half of 1984 will once again be satisfactory.

This is likely to prove something of an understatement. Shareholders should look for another hefty increase in profits this year.

Sales in the United States exceeded those in Britain for the first time in 1983. With the strong dollar this was of double benefit to profits as the group recovered from the slump in the world market that occurred in 1981 and 1982.

The underlying quality of Christies' earnings was far healthier last year than in previous periods when profits have been buoyant. Although there were some big sales which made the headlines, there was nothing sensational that altered the shape of profits for the year. It has been a feature of past years when profits have soared that one or two big sales have made all the difference.

In 1983, the group benefited from a general improvement in the range of items for sale - items that sell at £1,000 and above. There was no significant increase in the volume of items handled by Christies, but there were more at the expensive end of the market. Both in Britain and the United States the group sold more of what it handled.

The scope for further improvements in throughput appears limited, considering the range of items that have to be offered to get the market moving.

But Christies should continue to benefit from the upturn in the market while its lower buyers' premium rates in London are still helping it to increase market share. Three big sales, including the Gould collection of jewellery, which is expected to realise £7m (£4.9m) are already scheduled for this season.

At 774p, the shares yield 3.2p and sell at 17.4 times last year's heavily taxed earnings. This does not seem extravagant

in view of the scope for further growth this year and the valuations being put on companies that perform a similar jobbing function in the financial markets.

Riley Leisure

Despite a record year's trading at Riley Leisure, the dismal performance of its Leisure Industries subsidiary has soured the results, leaving a distinctly bitter taste, particularly for those who have seen the share price tumble from its peak of 211p last year to 123p. The stock market gave only a token nod of appreciation to yesterday's results, lifting the price from its basement by only 1p to 123p.

The acquisition of Leisure Industries, universally acclaimed last year as a big coup for Riley, has proved to be little short of disastrous. The profit potential has not been realized and Riley is now burdened with Leisure's debts which have seen gearing spiralling up to 100 per cent. The logic of buying out the competition and to gain economies of scale has proved fallible.

Riley has used the merger, rather than the acquisition method of accounting for the Leisure Industries link-up. This avoids any revaluation of Leisure's assets; allows Riley to take account of all Leisure's pre-acquisition reserves and gives no rise to goodwill which would have had to be written off.

Even with the benefit of this accounting technique the Leisure Industries operation still rests uncomfortably within Riley. There is still room for more rationalization in the retail operations, but only a little more.

The snooker clubs and the fitness equipment divisions are both racing ahead on profitability, leaving snooker table manufacturing and the retail side well behind. The snooker clubs business with its seasonal peak in the winter months would prove an attractive complement to many leisure industry companies with summer peaks and they will be watching Riley's progress with great interest.

An insistent predator might well be difficult to resist, even by the most realistic reflection

of Riley's prospects than its dizzy high. It is low enough to encourage more than an active interest from outside.

Gilts

Gilt decouplers are having a thin time of it this week, as the feeling spreads that not everything in the market is quite tickety-bon. Longs lost 1/2 point on Monday, and the attrition continued yesterday, with a bell wether stock like Exchequer 15 per cent 1997 shedding about 1/2 point to close at 126 1/2.

Poor reserve figures for March were partly to blame. The underlying fall in the reserves suggests more than just smoothing.

Nervous gilt cynics were quick to point out that sterling on the trade-weighted basis fell about 4 per cent last month. The further fall in reserves stemming from the quarterly gold revaluation of nearly \$1bn, taking the figure below \$17bn recalled desperate days of yore when there were no reserves at all. Gilt selling was persistent throughout the day.

But events in the United States also cast a giant shadow. As the market opened, Fed funds shot ahead to 10 1/4 per cent, while the long bond fell a further 1/2 to 95 1/2.

February construction spending in the United States was up by nearly 7 per cent, confirming the boom picture created by buoyant housing starts, and the March purchasing managers survey, half of whom are now chattering about the higher prices they see. Salomon Brothers' latest episode on United States points out that private short term credit demands are well ahead of schedule, and now rival the magnitude of end-of-expansion booms.

The Fed could always turn market confidence by coupon pass manoeuvres, essentially buying support operations, but there were no signs on Monday of the United States authorities in the market. The Fed's protracted absence from the market in New York will do nothing to boost confidence in London, and in the meantime United Kingdom rates are edging up: six month London interbank is now 1/4 point up from March 14, date of the base rate cuts.

1983/84				1983/84				1983/84				1983/84				1983/84				1983/84				1983/84							
Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield	Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield	Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield	Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield	Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield	Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield	Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield	Unit	Trust	Offer	Yield
Authorized Unit Trusts																															
1-3	Prudential	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00
100	Prudential	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00
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100	Prudential	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00
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100	Prudential	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	1

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

Newspapers unite to declare war on the TV giants

The never-ending battle between newspaper publishers for readers and advertisers sees a remarkable truce today. For the next three days, bingo hostilities and their upmarket equivalents will be put to one side as Fleet Street and regional newspaper publishers come together in an unprecedented display of co-operation to persuade advertisers that their money is best spent in the press.

More than 500 delegates from advertisers, their agencies and the press, including the chief executives of almost every Fleet Street group and several editors, will be assembling in Berlin for the Press '84 conference. Every morning they face the daunting prospect of receiving a copy of every national newspaper in their hotel room, an overwhelming testimony to the fact that for once a publisher is to be seen scoring points off its rivals.

Press '84 has been a year in the planning and Fleet Street executives admit that without the catalyst of an outsider to pull all the publishers together - the magazine *Marketing Week* - the event would not have happened. Yet in the year since it was first proposed as a way of helping to stop the seemingly inexorable drift of advertising money from the press to television, the newspapers' fortunes have taken a turn for the better and they go into the Berlin conference in their strongest position for several years.

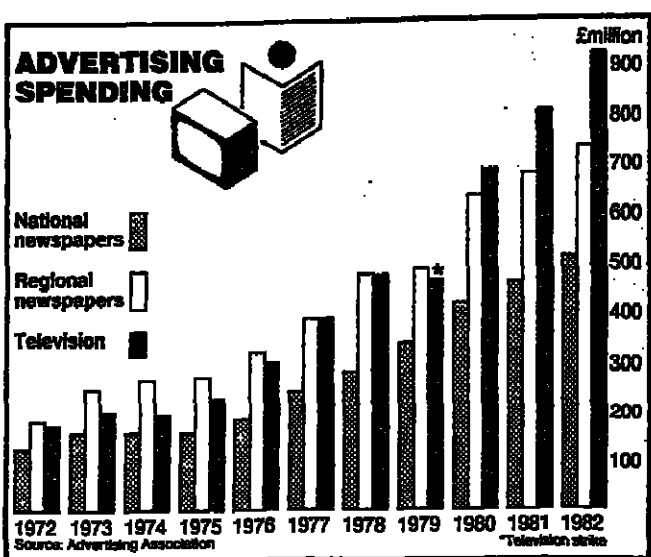
Nationals saw 7% real growth in revenues last year

National newspapers saw a 7 per cent real growth in their advertising revenues last year, according to the Advertising Association's provisional figures, and a rise of 8 per cent in real terms is forecast for this year. Classified advertising is growing even faster, so much so that the Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, now uses the Advertising Association's figures to demonstrate that the country's employment prospects are improving.

Almost all publishers can point to their own successes, either in profit increases, circulation gains or rises in advertising volume or revenue.

The *Guardian* will make a profit of more than £1m this year, the first time it will have declared a profit since it moved to London in 1961, according to its managing director, Mr Gerry Taylor. *The Times* has increased its volume of advertising by 36 per cent in the two years since it was taken over by Mr Rupert Murdoch, according to figures from Media Expenditure Analysis Ltd (MEAL). Though volume increases do not always equate with revenue - almost all publishers have to discount to get business these days - the level of discounting in Fleet Street has been substantially reduced in recent months.

"I have not seen the market as strong as this in the last two years," says Mr Bill Jones, press



buying director of the agency Davidson Pearce. "You can see from the increase in paging of the average tabloid that they are doing well, but the revenue yield per page is high too. Advertisers have been having a field day in the press until recently, with very heavy discounts, but now it is much tougher."

Yet underlying the current optimism in Fleet Street is an awareness that the long-term trend is against newspapers and in favour of television. The regional newspapers took £734m in 1982 and the nationals £515m, as against the television's £928m. But their share of total revenue is declining, while TV's is increasing.

In 1972, regional newspapers accounted for 26.5 per cent of advertising revenue, Fleet Street for 18.4 per cent and TV for 24.9 per cent. Ten years later, the regionals' share had fallen to 23.6 and the nationals' to 16.5, while TV's share had increased to 29.7 per cent.

Fleet Street's drop may not seem great - particularly since advertising revenue as a whole is growing, so its declining share is of a larger cake - but it is partly disguised by the fact that revenue from colour supplements is included in the figures for newspapers, rather than for magazines, where one could argue it belongs.

The supplements have boomed in recent years, with the launch of three magazines in the popular and middle sectors of the Sunday market in the *Sunday Express* and the *Sunday Mirror*.

This increase in the supply of colour availability has depressed the rate advertisers have to pay, but has, nonetheless,

less, boosted Fleet Street's revenue considerably.

In 1980, colour supplements accounted for 11.3 per cent of national newspapers' advertising revenue. This rose to 13.1 per cent in 1981, to 15.5 per cent in 1982 and when figures are released for 1983 they will show a share in excess of 17 per cent, with supplements revenue nudging £100m for the first time. Without this revenue, national newspapers' share of the advertising market would have declined even more.

In Berlin, the publishers are out to persuade advertisers of the benefits of advertising in the press rather than on television, benefits that often get forgotten in the battle between individual titles for a share of the advertiser's budget. Too much of the newspapers' time is spent fighting among themselves, runs the argument, and too little concentrating on the real enemy, which is television.

Many of the companies invited to the conference are heavy television advertisers: most of Britain's biggest advertisers and agencies spend well over half their budgets on television. Press '84 will not convince many of them to switch their money back to the press overnight. What it may do is to encourage them to look at the press a bit harder and perhaps run a campaign for one of their smaller brands in newspapers and research the results. Several successful case histories of campaigns conducted on this basis will be unveiled in Berlin.

Newspaper publishers accept that advertisers and agencies like the glamour of television and they concede that it is a

very effective medium. It also has the advantage that each of the ITV companies has a monopoly of TV advertising in its region.

They are also aware, however, that the cost of advertising on television has escalated rapidly, and so has the cost of producing commercials, which means that many companies simply cannot afford to advertise on television as they used to. Fleet Street is now wooing such advertisers hard.

One such firm is Goodyear, which this week starts a newspaper campaign for its tyres, after several years using television. Mr Chris Morley, media director of the agency Lowe Howard-Spink Campbell-Ewald, explains: "The Goodyear budget would have bought only four weeks' airtime on television. By using national newspapers, the campaign can run heavily for 17 weeks and people will have three times as many opportunities to see the ads."

Another advertiser that has recently pulled out of television, this time into the colour press, is the international Wool Swastika. The decision was taken because they wanted to target their advertising more tightly, positioning wool as being more fashion-oriented, but cost was also a factor, says Mr Bill Jones, of Davidson Pearce.

Too little time is spent fighting the real enemy - television

"The campaign has worked extremely well and we shall be staying in the press," he added.

Nevertheless, for every advertiser that pulls out of TV into the press, others are looking to move in the opposite direction, particularly in the new advertising boom categories of finance, office equipment and computers. Television's built-in advantages of movement and sound are obviously important factors, but some agencies believe that part of the problem is the press itself and the way it sells itself.

"They have failed to capitalize on the emotional benefits they have got," argues Mr John Perriss, media director of Saatchi & Saatchi. "Television has all the emotional, whereas press seems to have a hang-dog, loser mentality. There is a terrible introspection there: they are far more interested in whether they have got an ad than their competitor has and that whether it has gone on TV instead."

Yet newspapers have got a great deal going for them. Take *The Sun*, which has four million people buying it every day. That is amazing brand loyalty and you would think advertisers would be queuing up to be associated with that success. Fleet Street has all the rational arguments, but it has not managed to tap the emotional arguments. They have got to get back the glamour, so people are fighting for space. Hopefully, this conference will be a start."

Profits up for TSW despite rise in charges

TSW-Television South West Holdings yesterday reported a 37 per cent increase in pretax profits, despite an increase of almost 40 per cent in charges for Channel 4 and an Exchange rate of £914,000.

For the six months to the end of last January, turnover rose from £8.9m to £11.3m. Pretax profits were £978,000 as against £710,000 last time. More than £1m was paid to Channel 4.

The group has lifted the dividend from 0.3p to 0.5p and says that part of the increase is smoothing out the difference between the two payments.

It says that about 90 per cent of the increased profit has been absorbed by Channel 4 and the levy.

The second half has started well with advertising revenue showing an 11 per cent increase on last year and programme sales continuing at an encouraging level.

In brief

● **COATES BROTHERS:** Pretax profit for 1983 £9,010m (£8,666m). Turnover £139,930m (£122,880m). Total dividend 3.8p (3.45p). In 1984 to date profits are ahead of same period of 1983.

● **ROTAX:** The light fittings manufacturer, made pretax profits of £1.64m in 1983, compared with £843,000 the previous year. Group turnover rose by 8.6 per cent to £30.5m. Total dividend, 3.2p per share, against 2.2p last year.

● **ELASTON GROUP (USM):** Company reports 400 per cent jump in pretax profits to record £1.35m for 1983. Sales climbed from £4.7m to £21.9m. Total dividend 0.84p (0.175p) net. One-for-ten scrip issue proposed. Improvement of continued improvement in 1984.

● **MIDSUMMER INNS (USM):** Turnover for 1983 £44,000 (£43,000). Turnover £1.41m (£1.34m). Dividend 2.5p (same).

● **PEAK HOLDINGS:** Turnover for 1983 £45.4m (£5.19m). Pretax profit £31,000 (£244,000).

● **BRAMMER:** Turnover for 1983 £67.52m (£55,95m). Pretax profit £6,87m (£5,66m). Total dividend 6.2p (same).

● **BRUNTONS (MUSSELBURGH):** Results for 1983. Turnover £10.27m (£10.49m). Pretax profit £1.1m (£1.5m). Total dividend 10.5p (same).

● **KEEP TRUST:** Turnover for 1983 £56.51m (£54.59m). Pretax profit £1.08m (£0.541,000). Dividend 0.375p (0.15p).

● **COPYDEX:** Total dividend for 1983 up from 2.5p to 3.2p. Turnover £4.5m (£7.19m). Pretax profit £762,000 (£191,000).

● **SIDLAU:** Sidlau has increased its investment in Drexel Oldfield Services (HK) to 50 per cent at a cost of £4.7m.

● **OLIG ESTATES:** Company has bought a seven-acre site close to Waltham Cross town centre, for industrial development. Investment value of completed development is expected to be £5.5m.

● **OWEE GROUP:** Eks Investment (Sweden) has increased its holding by "52,000" ordinary shares to 794,500 (9.44 per cent).

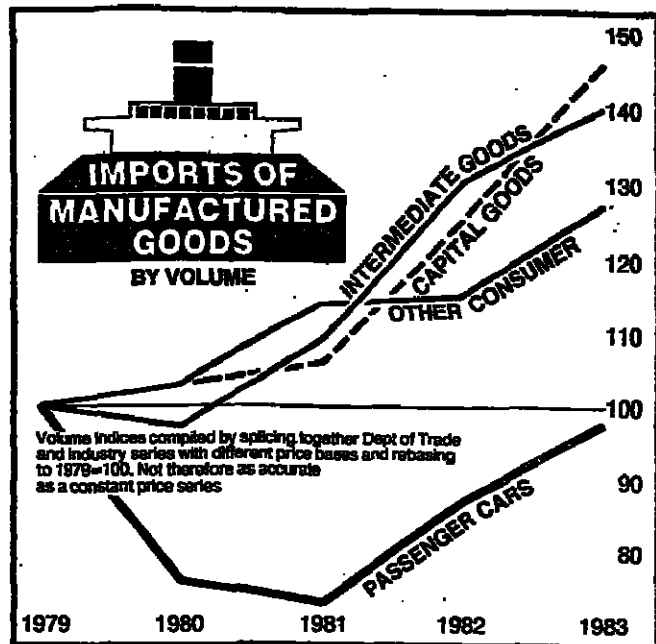
● **ISIS GROUP:** The completion of a £3m rights issue by Isis. The 150,000 new ordinary shares have been taken up by institutions and employees at £21.50 each and Granville will make a market in the shares.

● **ABINGWORTH:** In recent months, Abingworth has been active in new venture capital investment, particularly in the US. Since December 31, 1983, six fresh investments have been made, totalling \$3.3m (about £2.3m), with a further \$4.8m added to existing investments. Company currently has about £8m available for investment.

● **LAZARD DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL:** Lazard Development Capital Ltd, manager of the Lazard Development Fund, has completed the investment of the £5m subscribed to the fund.

Economic commentary by Tim Congdon

How the import boom is building a base for industry



rose between 1979 and 1983, gross domestic fixed-capital formation fell by 4.7 per cent.

Companies ran down their stocks without interruption in 1980, 1981 and 1982. Although stockpiling began again in 1983, it was still lower than in 1979.

The paradox has one obvious message. Import penetration has increased for greater in capital goods than in the consumer sector. This is shown by the plight of the machine tool industry.

But there is another important aspect. Britain is a relatively small country accounting for about 3 1/2 per cent of world output. However upsetting it may be to our national pride, it is inconceivable that we can be in the forefront of every new technology. The majority of worthwhile innovations - probably over 90 per cent - are likely to be developed abroad.

If Britain is to remain an advanced industrial nation, it must be prepared to use foreign ideas. These ideas are often embodied in plant, machinery, components and spare parts - precisely the sort of product described in the import statistics as "intermediate" or "capital" in nature. The boom in these types of imports suggests that British companies are installing top-technology equipment from overseas sources to improve efficiency.

This may partly explain the high rates of productivity growth now being reported. Output per man in manufacturing has consistently advanced at an annual rate of 6 per cent in the last three-and-a-half years.

The broader lesson is that British companies must have access to foreign-made capital goods and components if they are to compete effectively in the world.

This point deserves strong emphasis, as it is one of the most decisive objections to the Cambridge case for import controls.

Cambridge economists have claimed that, by limiting foreign competition, controls would give industry a breathing-space to invest and expand. Actually, import controls would deter companies from buying high-quality foreign equipment, which is essential if they are to

achieve all the productivity gains possible.

How has the surge in imports of intermediate and capital goods been financed? In balance-of-payments terms, the key factor has been North Sea oil. Oil exports jumped by about 60 per cent between 1979 and 1983, and their value by substantially more because of the second oil price shock. As a result, Britain was able to establish a sizeable current account surplus despite a 1 per cent fall in the volume of non-oil exports and an 8 per cent rise in the volume of imported goods.

In the late 1970s, a debate about the right uses of North Sea oil revenues paralleled that on import controls. Some economists favoured an active government role, channelling money from the North Sea to investment in the so-called "essential industrial base".

Others recommended that the extra tax receipts be used to cut the public sector borrowing requirement, to reduce the proportion of the nation's savings absorbed by the state and allow private financial institutions to decide where the funds should be allocated.

Broadly speaking, the Government chose the second course. The fall in the PSBR due to higher oil revenues was associated with greater strength in consumption than investment, which implies that the North Sea windfall has not been used to bolster the economy's productive capacity. So, were the advocates of a special North Sea Development Fund, with powers to invest in the "essential industrial base", right after all?

The evidence assembled in this article suggests that they were not. Although the recovery has so far been consumption-led, imports of intermediate and capital goods have risen faster than those of consumer goods. The installation of the best in foreign technology has contributed to the recent acceleration of productivity growth. None of this would have been possible without the balance-of-payments bonus of North Sea oil.

The author is economics partner at stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

WALL STREET

Dow slips on loan rate fears

Wall Street share prices opened slightly lower as traders kept an eye on interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell a little over one point to about 1152. Volume was about six million shares in the first 10 minutes of trading.


Sperry Corp, unchanged at 40 1/2, led the most active list in early trading, followed by Whitaker at 20 1/2, down 1/4, and Iowa Resources at 26 1/2, down 1/4.

It was announced in New York yesterday that the fortunes of the big three car makers in US rebounded dramatically last year as General Motors almost quadrupled its pre-share earnings, while Ford and Chrysler went into the black after a string of money-losing years. Despite agreement that profits should show robust gains this year, analysts remain sharply divided on their advice to investors.

Firmly entrenched in the bullish camp is the Value Line

investment survey, which rates General Motors, Ford and Chrysler all as timely purchases. The nation's largest investment advisory service, in fact, now ranks the car industry as its leading candidate among 93 industries to outperform the general market over the next 12 months.

	Apr 3	Mar 30		Apr 3	Mar 30		Apr 3	Mar 30
AMT Inc	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pat Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	PPG Inc	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Pratt & Whitney	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Chem	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Raychem	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Corp	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Fibers	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Inc	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Paper	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Text	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Textile	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Textile Corp	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
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Amstar Textile Ltd	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
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Amstar Textile Ltd	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
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Amstar Textile Corp	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Textile Inc	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Textile Ltd	12 1/2	12 1/2	Pe Intern Corp	30 1/2	30 1/2	Republic Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2
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THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY

Tatum: half-man, half-horsepower

They say the start is everything in speedway: the first 30 yards are crucial. Tatam has made one of the fastest starts in speedway history, breaking on his own

Speedway is an arcane game. Outsiders see it as an exceptionally noisy procession, as predictable in its way as the Boat Race, though with marginally more crashes. Flinging brakes machines into a hairpin bend at 75 mph is an undeniably heady experience. In the eyes of a competitive sport, outsiders say, it does not add up. Insiders do not even listen.

now the No 2 rider in the Wimbledon speedway team. You are just not supposed to get that good that quickly.

Tatum went to public school, which he hated ("I was much too pig-headed and arrogant"), but he never stopped riding and racing motor-bikes. "Some kids get puffed into it. They think they like it but they pack it in when they are 16. That

are manifestly intact?

Tatum himself was not sure about that: "I had a very tense time over the winter. In the summer I was so hectic that I barely slept. I was so busy that I was simply wasn't time to assess what I had done; but in winter I kept looking back

So up he shot through the ranks in schoolboy scrambling, winning British titles at three levels until a tumble damaged a nerve in his arm. It was a more serious problem than it seemed at first and he thought about giving up the game. He thought very hard and very long. Then he bought a second-hand bike and started grass-track racing; and got into the top 10 all the way to the end of the season. "I learned very, very quickly," he said, as if slightly puzzled by such a phenomenon.

They say the start is everything in speedway: the first 30 yards are crucial. Tatam has made one of the fastest starts in speedway history, breaking, on his own admission, every rule about an orderly apprenticeship and rising through the ranks.

Tatum went to public school, which he hated ("I was much too pig-headed and arrogant"), but he has never stopped riding and racing motor-bikes. "Some kids got pushed into it. They think they like it but they pack it in when they are 16. That was never a problem with me. I was never forced. It was always me that wanted to do it and the support from my family came afterwards. It was me that was pushing to enter competitions when I was five."

So up he shot through the ranks in schoolboy scrambling, winning British titles at three levels, until a tumble damaged a nerve in his arm. It was a more serious problem than it seemed at first and he thought about giving up the game. He thought very hard and very long. Then he bought a second-hand bike and started grass-track racing; and got into the top 10 almost at once. "I just seem to be able to learn very, very quickly," he said, as if slightly puzzled by such a phenomenon.

He was rather impressed with the superior way that speedway riders handled

Even the outsider can see the intensity of his need to be in front, to get out of the gate fastest, and the discerning men who stand at the pits bend say he has the kind of ability that lasts.

Tatum himself was not sure about that: "I had a very tense time over the winter. In the summer life was so hectic that there simply wasn't time to assess what I had done; but in winter I kept looking back and thinking: How am I going to follow this? The tension was really building up." When the season started, however, he opened with a maximum: four rides, four wins. Nerve and ability are manifestly intact.

"Everyone will be out to get me this season . . . I don't mean knock me off my bike. Actually, as many as 90 per cent of speedway falls are accidental. If we got up to everything the spectators believe we do, it would take days to finish a heat. But sometimes riders do get, ah, helped off. I've been put off deliberately, of course, but I don't try to get them back. That's childish. I go out to beat them. Much

Simon Barnes

Simon Barnes

By Keith Macklin

The Mansfield consortium are quietly confident of the result, and have called a press conference at the ground tomorrow. The chairman of the proposed new club is Paul Tomlinson, a businessman from Derby, and an experienced senior member of the board, is Jack Milton, an Halifax man and formerly chairman of the Keighley club.

The managing director is David Parker, who said yesterday: "The six-man board have successfully negotiated a five-year-minimum agreement with the board of Mansfield Town, but will in the long term be looking to find the game a permanent home in Mansfield for

● **Tony Myler**, the Widnes half-back who left the field after being injured during Saturday's Challenge Cup semi-final, has had a cartilage operation. Although he was originally ruled out of the Wembley final on May 5, and also of Great Britain's Australasian tour, he is making a determined attempt to regain fitness in time for both.

Middelburg dies

Groningen. (AP) — Jack Middelburg, the Dutch 500cc motorcycle champion who was critically injured on Sunday during the Dutch championships, died yesterday at the university hospital here.

By David Powell

11 glorious months had become ominous weeks. European and American 1,500 metre champion, as England's standard bearer, ...
... at Wembley and Cram has a more serious score to settle. He will be looking to achieve his first victory over David Moorcroft, the first of only two such victories to begin their domestic programme leading up to the Olympic Games.

They first raced in 1976 when Cram was fifth in a mile which Moorcroft won. A year later Cram fell and finished sixth in the United States mile. In the 1,500 metre championship when Moorcroft took the title, Cram's luck deteriorated further in 1982 when he was injured.

With the Olympic 1,500 metre race only two weeks away, Cram must lay his cards on the table. David Lewis, one of the

The occasion is the Newcastle City Centre road race for which the organizers, Newcastle upon Tyne City Council, and sponsors, Nike, have selected an invited field of 35 competitors. Although failing to enhance their considerable reputations as road racing promoters, the organizers are offering a prize fund of £10,000 for the winner. The race is open to all runners, but the prize money is reserved for those who are members of the Newcastle City Council's athletics club. The race is expected to attract a large crowd of spectators, particularly in the city centre, where the route will pass through some of the most beautiful scenery in the north-east. The race is expected to be a success, and it is hoped that it will help to promote the city and its athletics club.

"Heck, I didn't even know my body was still capable of such things," Lee Trevino exclaimed. "Look you'd better check with my wife tonight that it really is me."

It has led him to believe that next week he can win the one "major" championship that has eluded him throughout his illustrious career. There have been no fewer than 35 notable successes, including the Open Championship (1971, 1972) the U.S. Open (1968, 1971) and the US PGA championship (1974), but he has not won the US Masters.

"Augusta has never been very kind to me", Trevino says. "The way I hit the ball is not the way to win there. I move it left to right and you need to shape the ball the other way. But the way I see it now is that if I can shoot 10 under-par on the Players' course, then I can do some damage at Augusta."

"I have a feeling that I'm ready to sneak up and bite that course. Look, I'm not supposed to be playing this good any more. I'm just thankful that I can still hit the ball. I don't really know whether I can still win again. But it doesn't matter too much. I've won more than I thought Lever would when I first came out on tour. And I can thank God for that."

Trevino: spark in old fireplace
He was a hustler from Dallas, Texas with a unique game and a unique approach. The spectators loved him and he won their hearts by making his first victory the US Open in 1968.

Since then the familiar jazz-loose swing with which he strikes the ball with such authority and precision has been analysed around the world. Now Trevino analyses others. The weekend, for instance, he will

be in the commentary box for NBC television, who are recovering the Dinah Shore tournament on the Ladies' PGA tour.

"I love my new career," Travino continues. "And it is my career. I'm no longer relying on playing golf to earn a living."

So when I play I have that don't give a damn attitude. And when I shoot a 66, as I did in the Tournament Player's championship, then I just reckon it shows there is

"I know it will be difficult to keep the same attitude for the Masters. I know when I arrive at Augusta on Monday morning I'll get that same feeling that always runs through your veins at that place. But I'll be still be the underdog and I'm loving that role. I've gone through the time of feeling the pressure, being expected to win. Now I go out for a walk in this country and I've always believed that a dangerous golfer is one who is relaxed when he starts to play well."

When Trevino gets to Augusta, his programme will be simple. He will practice for no more than one hour on Tuesday and he will play the course on Wednesday. "I've quit practicing for good," he explained. "I had another operation on my back last year and the doctor has told me that I can no longer stand there how often hitting ball after ball. It doesn't make sense. I even played with borrowed clubs last week and look what I won. Who knows what might happen at Augusta?"

Mitchell Platts

In Iran, children are forced to watch their mothers being tortured. In the Soviet Union, psychiatrists give drugs as punishment to prisoners. In El Salvador, children have been tortured. Relatives of wanted people in Syria have been held hostage and tortured.

Today, Amnesty International, the international human rights organisation, is launching a campaign to end this barbaric practice. Amnesty has detailed evidence from over 90 countries worldwide on the torture and deliberate ill-treatment of prisoners.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Your support is vital if torture is to be eradicated. Send us a donation for our work and/or become a member. You will be sent ideas for other ways you can participate in the campaign.

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Amnesty International is a voluntary organisation funded entirely by donations and membership.

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SPRING BARGAINS

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BROADWOOD 5FT GRAND. 1907. W.

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Shadow 1976
Moorland green over pewter, man-

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LEGAL NOTICES

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In the Matter of SIGNAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY Limited. By Order of the High Court of Justice dated the 6th

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